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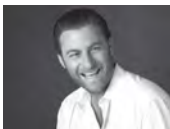
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## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	4	
DSLR CAMERAS FOR THE ULTIMATE SPEED, IMAGE QUALITY AND VERSATILITY .....	6	
DSLR LENSES COMPLETE YOUR SYSTEM WITH THE PERFECT OPTICS.....	22	
COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS GREAT PORTABILITY AND UNCOMPROMISED FUNCTIONALITY .....	32	
COMPACT-SYSTEM LENSES EXPAND THE POSSIBILITIES WITH SMALL BUT POWERFUL OPTICS.....	54	
FIXED-LENS COMPACT CAMERAS SOPHISTICATION MINUS THE BULK.....	58	
IMAGING SOFTWARE YOUR MOST POWERFUL IMAGE-EDITING TOOLS.....	64	
PHOTO APPS AFFORDABLE OPTIONS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY .....	68	
PHOTO PRINTERS THE BEST MACHINES FOR HOME PRINTING.....	70	
FLASH UNITS AND ACCESSORIES MOVING BEYOND BASIC EXPOSURE .....	72	
STUDIO LIGHTING AND ACCESSORIES POWERFUL EQUIPMENT FOR ON-LOCATION IMAGE-MAKING .....	76	
VIDEO ACCESSORIES COMPLEMENTING GEAR TO ENHANCE YOUR VIDEO EXPERIENCE .....	80	
CARRYING SOLUTIONS INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS FOR PROTECTION AND COMFORT .....	84	
TRIPODS AND HEADS OPTIONS TO STEADY YOUR PHOTO AND VIDEO GEAR .....	90	
ESSENTIAL EXTRAS VALUABLE ADD-ONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS .....	94	

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## INTRODUCTION

Today's imaging consumers are offered a wide range of options, and it can be hard to choose which product really suits our needs. Contributors to this guide hand-picked the most newsworthy and the very latest items in every product category to help you get through this maze of offerings.

You'll find extensive coverage of many types of photo and video equipment, as well as imaging apps and software. Each selected product is presented along with its major highlights, while cameras and lenses also feature the most important specs to consider for your purchase. This guide will help you narrow the field to the specific products of greatest interest, and then you can visit the relevant manufacturers' websites for additional specifics. Many photo retailers' e-commerce sites are also valuable sources of information, and they provide up-to-date prices. (Unless stated otherwise, the prices shown in the guide are the average selling prices at the time each section was prepared.)

The technology, products and trends have changed dramatically in the last few decades, and they continue to evolve. Among the important developments in the past 24 months, two are particularly noteworthy. First is the fact that a Full HD (1080p) Movie mode has become standard in virtually all types of cameras. A few can even record videos in 4K resolution, and this is likely to become the norm in the near future. In addition, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of mirrorless interchangeable-lens compact-system cameras (CSCs).

Although such cameras have been available since 2009, we are now in the midst of the most significant boom in this category. CSCs and their lenses are much more portable than DSLRs, and are now also highly competitive in feature set. In some aspects—such as the continuous drive speed and the video resolution of certain models—some CSC models actually lead the way. An increasing number of long-time photo enthusiasts now own a CSC. In fact, some have switched entirely to this more portable option. As a result, more and more lenses and other accessories are being developed for CSCs.

The *Buyers' Guide* is not only about cameras and lenses, of course. Perhaps some sections will entice you to consider entirely new types of products, such as accessories for shooting video or for achieving pro-calibre lighting effects. And as a photographer who loves making large prints, I would encourage you to consider the information on 13 x 19" format printers. While the electronic display of our images has become the norm, nothing can beat a framed and matted print. We hope you'll find this issue to be of value in helping you decide on equipment to buy or add to your wish list.



Peter K. Burian  
Editor in Chief  
Photo Life Buyers' Guide

### PHOTO LIFE BUYERS' GUIDE

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# DSLR CAMERAS FOR THE ULTIMATE SPEED, IMAGE QUALITY AND VERSATILITY

By Peter K. Burian



Although other types of cameras are available, DSLRs remain the choice of most photo enthusiasts, perhaps because many already own DSLR lenses. This is one valid reason for remaining loyal to this type of camera when upgrading to a new, improved model. Of course, the familiar form factor and controls plus great speed and versatility are also important.

Unlike compact-system cameras (CSCs), all DSLRs are equipped with an optical viewfinder. However, all of the current Sony Alpha models are actually SLTs: Single Lens

Translucent cameras that employ a fixed (semi-transparent) reflex mirror and a high-resolution electronic viewfinder (EVF). In most other respects, SLTs are very similar to DSLRs so we do not consider the Sony cameras to be in a different category. Both types provide Live View on the LCD and Movie mode is available with all recent models, usually with Full HD resolution. Check

our essays about the primary DSLRs brands for more specifics as to features and technology provided by Canon, Nikon, Pentax and Sony.

Before moving on to discuss the most popular and the latest cameras, let's take a look at some of the general aspects that are important when considering DSLRs that are suitable for your budget and level of experience.

## RESOLUTION

As the cost of CMOS and CCD sensors has declined, 16+ megapixel (MP) resolution is common. Some cameras, even in the affordable category, feature 20 MP or higher resolution.

## DRIVE SPEED

Because increased resolution requires greater processing speed to avoid sluggish performance, the latest DSLRs are employing new engines to achieve this goal. In some cases, the processor allows for very fast continuous drive mode, such as 5+ frames per second (fps), ideal in sports photography.

## LCD

The 3" size is now the norm and a few cameras employ an even larger LCD. Screen resolution has been increasing; some LCDs boast 900,000+ dot resolution and that's useful because it provides a superb display. Some DSLRs are equipped with a tilting or fully articulated screen, useful for image preview when you hold the camera above your head or at ground level, for example. A few also offer some touch-screen controls.

## VIDEO CAPTURE

All recent models can record Full HD 1080p video but some offer more overrides and more options re: autofocus modes, framing rate, file format etc., than others. If you plan to use a DSLR for serious movie making, this is an aspect worth checking on the manufacturers' websites, since video features consume more space than is available in this Guide. All can capture sound in Movie mode, using a built-in mic; a stereo mic produces better audio than a mono mic. The better cameras also accept an optional external stereo mic, which provides the best possible sound quality.

Check our essays  
about the primary  
DSLRs brands for  
more specifics  
as to features and  
technology provided  
by Canon, Nikon,  
Pentax and Sony.



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# DSLR CAMERAS

## THE CANON EOS DSLR SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian

Originally found on a long line of 35-mm SLRs, the EOS logo first appeared on a digital model in 1995. The 1.3-megapixel EOS DCS 3, developed in conjunction with Kodak was massive and was followed by three additional cameras, some available only in Japan.

The first consumer-oriented EOS DSLR available worldwide, in 2000, was the 3.11-MP D30 (at US\$2500). Numerous EOS digital cameras followed and, at our press time, the series was comprised of 12 models with 18+ MP resolution, most with the so-called APS-C format 14.9 x 22.3 mm CMOS sensor, which produces a crop factor of 1.6x with any lens.

Three other models employ a 24 x 36 mm (full-frame) CMOS sensor, including the expensive 18.1-MP EOS-1D X for working pros, the fully loaded 22.3-MP EOS 5D Mk III for enthusiasts and the smaller/lighter 20.2-MP EOS 6D. The last is nearly as impressive as the Mk III and offers two extra benefits: built-in GPS and Wi-Fi connectivity.

The EOS cameras, especially the latest models, employ state-of-the-art technology that offers the user numerous benefits, including the following that you'll find in many of the latest models.

### DIGIC SENSORS

All current engines offer very (or incredibly) fast processing and fabulous quality in still photos and videos. Depending on the camera, the DIGIC sensor may be as high as v.5 or 5+, or even the Dual DIGIC 6. Most EOS models' Raw photos are recorded at 14 bits so that processed 16-bit TIFF images contain rich blacks and great detail in high-light and shadow areas.

### MULTI-MODE AF

Canon's autofocus technology is second to none, with multi-point AF and fast, reliable continuous predictive servo focus for action photography. The EOS 7D Mk II is particularly impressive with an all cross-type 65-point AF system that works with information from the 150,000-pixel metering sensor for Intelligent Tracking and Recognition even when shooting at 10 fps.

### INTELLIGENT LIGHT METERING

Canon's multi-segment evaluative metering systems are very sophisticated, particularly the iFCL 63-zone Dual-layer version in some of the latest cameras and the new 150,000-pixel system. Many EOS DSLRs offer features for expanding dynamic range; a few also offer in-camera auto HDR.

### LIVE VIEW AND MOVIE MODE

All recent models provide live view on the LCD for use when shooting stills or video clips. A Full HD video mode, at 1920 x 1080p, is becoming standard. The EOS 70D is particularly noteworthy because of Dual Pixel CMOS AF for fast, accurate autofocus during Live View and Movie recording. It also features an LCD with touch-screen controls, as do the T5i and SL1. The EOS 7D Mk II offers on-sensor phase detection for fast AF in both Live View and Full HD Movie mode.

The EOS cameras, especially the latest models, employ state-of-the-art technology that offers the user numerous benefits







### WI-FI CAPABILITY

Two EOS cameras (70D and 6D) offer built-in wireless technology for communication with smart devices and for remote control of the camera via the device. The D-1x accepts a large Transmitter with Wireless LAN and Bluetooth support.

### WIRELESS OFF-CAMERA FLASH

Most EOS models provide this feature when using an optional Speedlite or a transmitter accessory on-camera. The 7D, 60D, T5i and T3i can also trigger certain off-camera EX II Speedlites using the built-in flash, eliminating the need to buy an accessory for doing so.

### IN-CAMERA PROCESSING

The EOS 6D allows for modifying Raw photos in Playback mode, while the 60D also allows for adding special effects

to JPEG photos. The T5i also offers the latter feature for modifying your JPEGs.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

Canon is a major lens manufacturer, marketing both EF lenses (suitable for any EOS DSLR) as well as EF Lenses (for full-frame DSLRs or those with the smaller sensor). At last count there were over 70 models, including Tilt/Shift lenses for architectural photography. Many are equipped with high-tech optical elements, Canon's proprietary Image Stabilizer and a fast, quiet Ultrasonic Motor for autofocus.

Canon owners can buy many accessories, including external flash units, teleconverters, remote-control devices, AC adapters and cases as well as a Wireless Speedlite trigger, a File Transmitter and a GPS Receiver compatible with for certain EOS models. (The EOS 7D Mk II features built-in GPS.)

## Just because you can buy a camera just about anywhere, it doesn't mean you should.

Whether you're a hobbyist who shoots for fun or a professional who shoots for a living, Vistek is your one-stop camera store. From point&shoot cameras and Compact System cameras, to DSLRs and medium format camera systems, Vistek carries a selection you'll not see at any other store. At Vistek, you'll find all the leading names, including Canon, Nikon, Olympus, Panasonic, Sony, Fuji,

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# DSLR CAMERAS

## THE NIKON DSLR SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian

Well-known especially for pro-calibre equipment, Nikon makes DSLRs from entry- to enthusiast- to professional-level. The first model, the 2.62-MP professional D1 (\$5000) was introduced in 1999 and today, the line includes over a dozen models, many with a 15.6 x 23.6 mm DX-format sensors that produces a crop factor of 1.5x with any lens; up to 24.2-MP resolution is available. Nikon also makes full-frame DSLRs with the large 24 x 36 mm FX sensor, including the professional D4s and D3x with tank-like construction.

The full-frame FX series also includes cameras priced to attract serious amateurs, including 16.2-MP Nikon DF with very traditional styling and the newer and even faster 24.3-MP D750. More noteworthy is the 36-MP D810 since it omits a low-pass filter, as do several other Nikon DSLRs. (The D800E had this filter but its effect was nullified, for similar results; the D810 offers several other significant benefits over the D800E.) Eliminating the filter provides maximum per-pixel resolution but can increase the risk of moiré pattern in images; frankly, that problem is rare but can be solved with software.

Nikon's DSLRs are loaded with sophisticated technology for a wealth of benefits, including the following that you'll find in many of the latest models.

### EXPEED PROCESSORS

Nikon cameras boast highly advanced engines for fast processing of large volumes of data as well as excellent noise reduction and chromatic aberration correction. Some of the high-end DSLRs provide 16-bit Raw processing for deep rich blacks and great detail in highlight and shadow areas.

**Nikon's DSLRs are loaded with sophisticated technology for a wealth of benefits, including the following that you'll find in many of the latest models.**

### SCENE-RECOGNITION SYSTEM

This feature enables the camera to analyze brightness and colour of the scene and applies this data to autofocus, auto exposure, i-TTL flash and auto white balance control for fine results in most circumstances.

### MATRIX METERING

The multi-segment light-metering system is regularly fine-tuned and their 3D Color Matrix II and III are particularly impressive in terms of fine exposure.

### ACTIVE D-LIGHTING

All Nikon DSLRs include this feature that uses special processing, at the level set by the user, to preserve detail in the highlight and shadow areas in high-contrast light. Some models also offer HDR to generate a JPEG with exceptionally high dynamic range.

### RELIABLE TRACKING AF

The cameras employ a multi-point autofocus system with a very effective 3D Tracking for action photography. All of the latest Nikon models provide a Dynamic AF option for use in the most difficult conditions. The D810 and D4s also offer Group-Area AF, using four detection points adjacent to a central point for great reliability.





### ADVANCED WIRELESS LIGHTING

Many of the latest Nikon DSLRs with built-in flash allow the flash to act as the master controller for off-camera flash units, eliminating the need to buy a controller accessory.

### IMAGE RETOUCHING

Many Nikon DSLRs offer many tools in Playback mode for modifying technical aspects of your JPEGs or for adding special effects.

### LIVE VIEW AND MOVIE MODE

All recent models provide Live View on the LCD for use when shooting stills or video clips. Movie mode, with Full HD video at 1920 x 1080 has become standard. The D810 and D750 are particularly versatile in terms of features for serious videographers.



### WI-FI DEVICES

A few Nikon DSLRs feature built-in Wi-Fi while others accept an optional Wu-series adapter to gain Wi-Fi; the pro cameras accept a large Wireless Transmitter.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

Nikon makes AF and AF-S lenses of every type imaginable, most with ED glass and/or aspherical elements and many with a Vibration Reduction stabilizer. There are over 60 current models. Many of their DSLRs (except the most affordable models) can also use the older manual focus Nikon F-mount lenses, with some limitations. (The Df can even use the old pre-Ai lenses.) The AF-S series incorporate a fast, quiet Silent Wave (ultrasonic) autofocus motor. You'll find a great variety of accessories too, including teleconverters, flash units, wireless transmitters, remote control devices, a GPS unit, a stereo mic and filters.



# DSLR CAMERAS

## THE PENTAX DSLR SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian

The latest Pentax DSLRs, especially the 5-K II, the K-S1 and the K-3, are loaded with high-tech features for serious photography, but also many amenities for novices.

Since Pentax is now owned by Ricoh Imaging, their latest DSLRs benefit from technologies developed by both companies. After decades of making 35-mm SLRs, the first digital model, the 6-MP Pentax \*ist, was released in 2003. Numerous new, improved models have been released since then, all employing an APS-C size (15.7 x 23.7 mm) sensor that produces a 1.5x crop factor with any lens. (There are also larger Pentax 645 DSLRs with huge sensors.) All of the cameras have maintained compatibility

with Pentax manual focus lenses; their high-tech features operate only when AF lenses are used but the level of compatibility with older lenses is still surprisingly great.

Pentax markets six DSLRs, including two distinct K-5 II models plus two special models of the 24.3-MP

K-3 (including the Limited and Prestige K-3 with different styling); most feature a 16 or 16.3-MP sensor while the K-S1 is a 20-MP camera. All are equipped with a sensor-shift stabilizer, a pentaprism (not a penta-mirror) for 100% scene coverage, and a large, high-resolution LCD. All except the K-500 and the 20-MP K-S1 feature weather proofing to withstand rain, snow, dust and cold.

The flagship K-3 offers some significant benefits, including a 3.2" LCD, exceptional speed, more effective Shake Reduction, extra features, and even better autofocus and metering systems. Featuring entirely new style controls,

including an oversized, backlit mode dial with 4-way controller on the back, the K-S1 is equipped with a set of LEDs on the power switch, the OK button and the hand-grip; they flash as modes are changed or the self timer is used. Both can provide Wi-Fi connectivity to smart devices with an optional Pentax SD FluCard.

The K-5 IIs omits the low-pass filter over the sensor in order to minimize the blurring that such a filter causes. Hence, it provides maximum resolution with incredible per-pixel sharpness. Any moiré pattern (which occurs infrequently) can be removed later, with imaging software. The K-3 and the K-S1 offer a low-pass filter simulator, on-demand; the user can decide whether to activate it or not.

The latest Pentax DSLRs, especially the 5-K II, the K-S1 and the K-3, are loaded with high-tech features for serious photography, but also many amenities for novices. Here's a brief overview.

### PRIME PROCESSORS

These engines are optimized for HD video capture and smooth live view. Other features include in-camera photo modification and Raw processing, High Dynamic Range mode and many digital special-effect filters. The PRIME engines also allows for fast continuous drive; that's 7 fps with the K-5 II and 8.3 fps with the K-3.

### DYNAMIC RANGE

Most Pentax DSLRs offer intelligent 77-segment light metering, while the K-3 employs a new 8600-pixel RGB meter. Dynamic range expansion and a multi-frame HDR mode is available for increased highlight and shadow detail.





**LCD**

Most models are equipped with a 3" 921,000-dot LCD while the K-3 benefits from a 3.2" LCD with 1.037-million-dot resolution. The LCD in the K-5 II and the K-3 are air-gap-free to reduce glare and a loss of brightness.

**ADVANCED AUTOFOCUS**

Most of the cameras employ an AF module with 11-point AF and many AF options, including effective tracking AF for action photography. The K-3 employs a more sophisticated system with even more AF modes. The K-5 II and the K-3 provide even better AF in dark locations when using an f/2.8 or faster lens.

**WIRELESS OFF-CAMERA FLASH**

The built-in flash can trigger remote flash units (of certain models) so there's no need for an extra cost controller accessory.

**FULL HD MOVIE MODE**

Full 1080p video capture is available, usually with mono sound, but stereo with the K-S1. The K-5 II and the K-3 accept an external stereo mic; the K-3 also has a jack for external headphones and it offers even more Movie mode options.

**LENSES AND ACCESSORIES**

Pentax markets over 35 AF lenses, some with a fast, silent ultrasonic (SDM) AF motor and low dispersion and or aspherical elements. The numerous old K-mount manual focus Pentax lenses can also be used with their DSLRs. Other accessories include flash units, the FluCard, a GPS receiver, battery grips and viewing screens for certain cameras and remote controllers.



# DSLR CAMERAS

## THE SONY ALPHA SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian

Although Sony entered the digital SLR market by acquiring Konica Minolta (in 2006), the current Alpha models have developed far past their predecessors, retaining only the A-mount and in-camera image stabilizer. Since the first Sony model, the  $\alpha$ 100, the company has been adding entirely new technology to each generation. For example, in 2010, Sony switched to making Single Lens Translucent (SLT) models, with a fixed semi-transparent mirror and an electronic (not optical) viewfinder.

The current series of eight includes both full-frame models with a 24 x 36 mm sensor and others using the smaller APS-C size 15.6 x 23.5 mm chip; the latter produces a 1.5x crop factor with any lens.

All of the SLTs feature a built-in SteadyShot stabilizer and CMOS sensor. The professional 24.3-MP full-frame  $\alpha$ 99 in a weather-sealed magnesium-alloy body with GPS receiver boasts numerous high-tech functions, including pro-grade versatility in video and audio recording. The other Alpha cameras use the smaller sensor with resolution from 16.1 MP and up to 24.3 MP in the  $\alpha$ 65, the  $\alpha$ 77 and the newer  $\alpha$ 77 II; these three also feature a magnesium-alloy body.

The SLT cameras benefit from advanced technology developed by Sony, including some unique aspects; here's a brief overview.

### ELECTRONIC VIEWFINDERS

All Sony Alpha cameras are equipped with an EVF for a live view of the scene, with very high resolution: 1.44 million dots ( $\alpha$ 58) or 2.36 million dots ( $\alpha$ 65,  $\alpha$ 77,  $\alpha$ 77 II and  $\alpha$ 99), for example.



**The current Alpha models have developed far past their predecessors, retaining only the A-mount and in-camera image stabilizer.**

### TILTING LCD

The 3" tilting high-resolution Xtra Fine LCD is becoming standard, although the smaller  $\alpha$ 58 is equipped with a 2.7" screen. All provide high resolution for a very good or superb display: at 460,800 dots ( $\alpha$ 58) or 921,600-dots ( $\alpha$ 65,  $\alpha$ 77 and  $\alpha$ 77 II), for example. Since the camera's internal mirror does not move, live view on the LCD (and EVF) never black out.

### ADVANCED AUTOFOCUS

Sony offers multi-point phase-detect AF with a full range of AF modes, including very effective continuous predictive tracking for sports photography. The  $\alpha$ 77 II features 79-point AF with 15 cross-type points while the  $\alpha$ 99



boasts a unique AF-D feature with 19 focus-detection points complemented by an extra 102 points to maintain focus on a subject that drifts far off centre. This allows the  $\alpha$ 99 to provide superior continuous AF (with certain Sony lenses) when shooting fast, erratic action.





Sony markets over 30 A-mount lenses for their full-frame and small sensor Alpha cameras, including many with low-dispersion and aspherical elements.

#### BIONZ PROCESSOR

This engine (often updated for new models) provides adaptive noise-reduction technology and allows for high-tech features such as Auto Object Framing (automatic JPEG cropping for better composition) and Sweep Panorama mode, many special-effect options, and multi-frame modes for amazing image quality at very high ISO levels. The processor is very fast; for example, the  $\alpha 77$  and  $\alpha 77$  II can shoot 24.3-MP photos at a blazing 12 fps.

#### DYNAMIC RANGE OPTIMIZER

All Sony cameras offer intelligent multi-zone light metering, with an option to use DRO for greater highlight and shadow detail. Multi-frame Auto HDR is also standard with Alpha cameras, for dramatically increased dynamic range.

#### WIRELESS OFF-CAMERA FLASH AND WI-FI

The built-in flash can trigger remote flash units (of certain models) so there's no need for an extra-cost accessory. Wi-Fi is not standard but it is provided by the  $\alpha 77$  II with an NFC feature and available Sony apps.

#### FULL HD MOVIE MODE

The current Alpha cameras can all record 1080p video with stereo sound in MP4 format, or in AVCHD for exceptional movie quality, with fast continuous phase-detect autofocus in P mode or with manual focus in A, S or M mode.

#### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

Sony markets over 30 A-mount lenses for their full-frame and small sensor Alpha cameras, including many with low-dispersion and aspherical elements and/or fast, nearly silent ultrasonic (SSM) focus motor or the new Smooth Autofocus Motor (SAM). The series includes some pro-grade Zeiss models with superb construction and optics. All Alpha cameras are also compatible with the old Minolta Maxxum AF lenses.

Other accessories include cases, remote controllers, a vertical battery grip for the  $\alpha 99$ , many flash units including some with Sony's unique Quick Shift Bounce system for use when shooting verticals, external stereo mics, an XLR adapter for the  $\alpha 99$ , an external LCD and an LED light.



## AFFORDABLE DSLRS

Even if your budget is fairly tight, it's definitely possible to buy a fast DSLR with many of the features that photo enthusiasts expect. At one time, this category consisted of basic entry-level models, but today, you can find some surprisingly competent cameras. In fact, if you're a budding photo enthusiast, you will probably find several in this category that will meet your needs not only today but also for a few years to come. Unless otherwise stated, all models (in this category and all others) are equipped with built-in flash and a hot shoe; the weight includes the battery.

### CANON EOS REBEL SL1



This very small 18-MP model with a fixed 3" touch-screen LCD plus some analogue controls offers both advanced functions and snapshotting options such as 10 Scene modes. It benefits from advanced technology, including Full HD video with Continuous autofocus and mono mic. Features include a 9-point sensor and a very large AF coverage area, Hybrid AF (both contrast-detect and phase-detect) and creative filters in Shooting mode as well as in Playback mode.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 95% • FIXED 3" (1.04-MILLION-DOT) TOUCH-SCREEN**

MODES: **P, A, S, M, 2 AUTO, 10 SCENE, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **4 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **QUITE EXTENSIVE, INCLUDING SPECIAL-EFFECT FILTERS**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **117 X 91 X 69 MM • 495 G**

**\$630** WITH 18-55 MM STM LENS (STREET)

**CANON.CA**

### CANON EOS REBEL T5



This 18-MP DSLR employs a 9-point AF module with a single cross-type point and provides Continuous AF in Live View and single shot AF in Full HD Movie mode. It's equipped with a DIGIC 4 processor for fine high ISO quality, a larger LCD than the previous T3 and five creative filters for special effects without the need for software.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 95% • 3" (460,000-DOT) SCREEN** // MODES: **P, A, S, M, AUTO, 5 SCENE, FULL HD MOVIE**

FRAMING RATE: **3 FPS** // FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **QUITE EXTENSIVE • SPECIAL EFFECTS, HDR AND**

**DUAL-LAYER METERING** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **129.6 X 99.7 X 77.9 MM • 480 G**

**\$550** WITH 18-55 MM IS II LENS (STREET)

**CANON.CA**

### NIKON D3300



This DSLR benefits from a new 24.2-MP sensor without a low-pass filter for maximum per-pixel sharpness and the latest EXPEED 4 processor for increased speed and ISO quality. The D3300 is the first Nikon DSLR with the Easy Panorama mode, in addition to full range of features, 11-point AF with one cross-type point and compatibility with a tiny WU-1a Wireless (Wi-Fi) adapter.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL, 95% • 3" (921,000-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **AUTO, FLASH OFF, P, A, S, M, PANO, 8 SCENE MODES, FULL HD MOVIE**

FRAMING RATE: **5 FPS** // FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **EXTENSIVE • ACCEPTS WI-FI ACCESSORY**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **124 X 98 X 75.5 MM • 460 G**

**\$479** BODY ONLY OR **\$569** WITH 18-55 MM VR II LENS (STREET)

**NIKON.CA**

### NIKON D5300



This 24.2-MP camera boasts both built-in Wi-Fi and GPS, an oversized swivelling LCD and a moderately large viewfinder. The low-pass filter has been omitted for greater per-pixel resolution. It's also fast at 5 fps thanks to the EXPEED 4 processor which also provides fine high ISO quality. Features include a 39-point AF system with 9 cross-type points and 3D tracking, 2016-pixel Matrix meter and a wealth of amenities.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 95% • TILTING 3.2" (1.037-MILLION-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **AUTO, P, A, S, M, SCENE MODES, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **5 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **VERY EXTENSIVE • BUILT-IN FLASH** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **125 X 98 X 76 MM • 530 G**

**\$850** WITH 18-55 MM VR II LENS (STREET)

**NIKON.CA**



## PENTAX K-50

Available in 3 colours, and others by special order, this small 16.3-MP DSLR features a nearly 100% viewfinder and retains the features, PRIME M processor, 11-point AF (with 9 cross-type points) and weather-sealed body of the K-30. However, the styling is more traditional and the processor has been improved for even better image quality and greater speed. It's fully compatible with Eye-Fi LAN SD cards for wireless image and video clip transfer.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL, 99% • FIXED 3" (921,000-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **AUTO, P, A, S, M, SV, TAV, 19 SCENE MODES, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **6 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **VERY EXTENSIVE • BUILT-IN STABILIZER** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **129 X 96.5 X 70 MM • 650 G**

**\$579** WITH 18-55 MM WR LENS (STREET)

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



## SONY α58

This 20.1-MP SLT is equipped with a tilting LCD, a high-resolution electronic OLED viewfinder and an AF module with a 15-point sensor, with 3 cross-type points and effective subject tracking. Features include Auto Object Framing that can automatically crop photos for a better composition, convenient Panorama mode, Auto HDR, and 11 special-effect filters. Fast, reliable phase-detect continuous AF is available in all modes, including Movie.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **ELECTRONIC (1.44 MILLION DOTS • TILTING 2.7" (460,000-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **P, A, S, M, PANORAMA, TELEZOOM CONTINUOUS, 2 AUTO, 8 SCENE, FULL HD MOVIE**

FRAMING RATE: **5 FPS; 8 FPS AT 5-MP RESOLUTION**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **EXTENSIVE • IN-CAMERA STABILIZER • SPECIAL HIGH-ISO MODES**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **128.6 X 95.5 X 77.7 MM • 492 G**

**\$500** WITH 18-55 MM SAM II LENS (STREET)

**SONY.CA**



## ADVANCED AND EXPERT DSLRS

There's no clear-cut definition of these categories, but advanced cameras are more pricey and more obviously target experienced photo enthusiasts than models in the previous section. Some of the benefits may include more rugged construction, higher resolution, greater speed or additional functions, or all of these benefits. The expert cameras are even more impressive, just a notch below the very expensive professional models not covered in this Guide. Without slotting them into one of the two categories, here are the most important high-end DSLRs with a standard size (not full-frame) sensor.

## CANON EOS REBEL T5i

This 18-MP camera is equipped with the Hybrid AF system (discussed earlier) and 9-point AF with all cross-type points; continuous AF is available in all modes including Full HD Movie. Advanced features include HDR, Multi-Shot modes for fine high-ISO quality and 7 creative filters in Shooting mode (not only in Playback mode). The user can preview the effect that each filter will provide, to visualize the look of the final JPEG.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 95% • VARI-ANGLE (1.04 MILLION-DOT) TOUCH-SCREEN**

MODES: **P, A, S, M, 2 AUTO, 8 SCENE, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **5 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **VERY EXTENSIVE • HIGH-TECH AF** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **133.1 X 99.8 X 78.8 MM • 580 G**

**\$750** WITH 18-55 MM IS STM LENS (STREET)

**CANON.CA**



## CANON EOS 70D

The first DSLR with Dual Pixel CMOS AF technology and 19-point AF (with all cross-type points), the 20.2-MP 70D provides fast continuous tracking AF with stills and in Full HD Movie mode. It's equipped with an articulated touch-screen LCD, 19-point AF with all cross-type detectors and offers Multi Frame High ISO options, in-camera HDR, creative filters with a preview feature and built-in Wi-Fi for communication with smart devices.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 98% • VARI-ANGLE (1.04-MILLION-DOT) TOUCH-SCREEN**

MODES: **P, A, S, M, CUSTOM, 2 AUTO, 7 SCENE, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **7 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE • WI-FI • HIGH-TECH AF**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **139 X 104.3 X 78.5 MM • 900 G**

**\$1050** BODY ONLY OR **\$1200** WITH 18-135 MM IS STM LENS (STREET)

**CANON.CA**



## CANON EOS 7D MK II



Boasting an all cross-type 65-point AF system that works with information from the 150,000-pixel metering sensor (for Intelligent Tracking and Recognition) this well-sealed, magnesium-alloy 20-MP Mk II model can shoot at a blazing 10 fps with Continuous AF. On-sensor phase detection in Live View and Movie mode also provide improved autofocus performance. There's a built-in GPS and USB 3.0 output for fast downloading of images and video clips.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 100% • 3" (1.04-MILLION-DOT) LCD**

MODES: **P, A, S, M, CUSTOM, AUTO, SCENE, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **10 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE • GPS • ULTRA HIGH-TECH AF**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **149 X 112 X 78 MM • 910 G**

**\$1900** BODY ONLY OR **\$2250** WITH 18-135 MM IS STM LENS (LIST)

**CANON.CA**

## NIKON D7100



A very rugged, water-resistant semi-pro 24.1-MP DSLR with an oversized 3.2" LCD and omitting the low-pass filter for maximum resolution, the D7100 is compatible with WU-1a Wireless (Wi-Fi) adapter. It's loaded with features such as 51-point AF with 15 cross-type points and 3D Tracking AF, Continuous AF in Full HD Movie mode, 2016-pixel Matrix metering, image-editing tools in Playback mode and a versatile HDR option for high dynamic range photos.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 100% • FIXED 3.2" (1.229-MILLION-DOT) LCD**

MODES: **P, A, S, M, 16 SCENE, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **6 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE • WI-FI COMPATIBLE • HIGH-TECH AF**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **135.5 X 106.5 X 76 MM • 765 G**

**\$1100** BODY ONLY OR **\$1400** WITH 18-140 MM VR LENS (STREET)

**NIKON.CA**

## PENTAX K-3



An unusually well-specified 24-MP model without a low-pass filter, the K-3 can shoot at 8.3 fps and benefits from a highly effective stabilizer, a new 8600-pixel RGB metering system, very versatile Movie Mode and an improved 27-point AF system with 25 cross-type points and many user-selectable options. A unique mechanism (using the stabilizer) can provide moiré reduction on demand and allows for setting a desired level.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 100% • FIXED 3.2" (1.037-MILLION-DOT) LCD**

MODES: **P, A, S, M, SV, TAV, AUTO, 3 CUSTOM, HDR, FULL HD MOVIE • FRAMING RATE: 8.3 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE • IN-CAMERA STABILIZER**

DIMENSIONS /WEIGHT: **131.5 X 100 X 77.5 MM • 715 G**

**\$1050** BODY ONLY OR **\$1400** WITH 18-135 MM LENS (LIST)

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**

## PENTAX K-5 IIS



This rugged, weatherproof 16.3-MP model with image stabilizer features an 11-point AF module for quick focus in low light, great speed/accuracy especially with wide-aperture lenses, and reliable tracking focus. Useful amenities include HDR options, dual-axis level gauge and Full HD Movie mode Single Shot AF. Unlike the older K-5II, the K-5 IIS omits the low-pass filter to provide higher per-pixel resolution; any moiré can be removed in software.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 100% • FIXED 3" (920,000-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **P, A, S, M, SV, TAV, AUTO, HDR FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **7 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **VERY EXTENSIVE • IN-CAMERA STABILIZER**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **131 X 97 X 72.5 MM • 760 G**

**\$840** BODY ONLY (STREET)

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



## PENTAX K-S1

Featuring entirely new style controls, including an oversized, backlit mode dial with 4-way controller on the back, this compact 20.1-MP DSLR is also equipped with a set of LEDs on the power switch, the OK button and the handgrip; they flash during certain camera operations. Amenities include the low-pass filter simulator On/Off switch, an 11-point AF system with numerous options, and many modes, functions and overrides.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 100% • FIXED 3" (920,000-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **P, A, S, M, SV, TAV, AUTO, HDR FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **5.4 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **VERY EXTENSIVE • IN-CAMERA STABILIZER**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **120 X 92.5 X 69.5 MM • 558 G**

**\$700 BODY ONLY OR \$800 WITH 18-55 MM LENS AND FLUCCARD (STREET)**

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



## SIGMA SD-1 MERRILL

This weather-resistant magnesium-alloy DSLR employs a 16 x 24 mm Foveon X3 Direct sensor with three 15.3-MP layers, for 46-MP equivalent resolution. There's no anti-aliasing filter, so the sensor can record a maximum amount of detail—any moiré can be removed with software. It's quite well equipped with an 11-Point Twin Cross AF sensor, 3 metering options, the important modes (except for Movie) and essential overrides.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 98% • FIXED 3" (460,000-DOT) LCD** // MODES: **P, A, S, M AND 3 CUSTOM**

FRAMING RATE: **5 FPS • 6 FPS AT REDUCED RESOLUTION** // FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **QUITE EXTENSIVE**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **146 X 114 X 80 MM • 750 G**

**\$1900 BODY ONLY (STREET)**

**SIGMACANADA.CA**



## SONY α77 II

A magnesium-alloy 24.3-MP model with image stabilizer and Full HD movie mode with Continuous AF, v. II benefits from an improved sensor, viewfinder and White Magic LCD, 79 point phase-detect AF with 15 cross-type points and advanced Lock On AF for superior tracking. New features include Wi-Fi with NFC, extra picture effects, Auto Object Framing, smart digital zoom functions and an Extra Fine JPEG option.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OLED 100%, 2.4 MILLION DOTS • TILT/SWIVEL 3" (1.23 MILLION-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **PANORAMA, HIGH SPEED, P, A, S, M, 2 AUTO, 8 SCENE, FULL HD MOVIE**

FRAMING RATE: **8 FPS • 12 FPS AT MAX. APERTURE WITH AF-C**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE • STABILIZER AND WI-FI WITH NFC**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **142.6 X 104 X 81 MM • 653 G**

**\$1100 BODY ONLY OR \$1400 WITH 18-135 MM LENS (STREET)**

**SONY.CA**



# Accessorize your accessories

We're much more than a camera store. At Vistek, we carry the widest assortment of photo accessories including top-name lenses, including Canon, Nikon, Sigma, Tamron, Tokina and Zeiss. We also carry a huge selection of lighting accessories from such leading manufacturers as Elinchrom, Profoto, Illumi, Mantis, Lastolite and LEDGO, as well as a wide array of tripods

from Benro, MeFoto, Induro and Manfrotto. At Vistek, you get the products, the brands, and an incomparable selection, including a phenomenal collection of camera bags from Tenba, Lowepro and Benro, and exciting accessories like DJI quadcopters that will allow you to take your photography to a thrilling new level.



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**VISTEK.CA**

## FULL-FRAME DSLRS

Becoming very popular with serious photo enthusiasts, DSLRs with a huge 24 x 36 mm sensor allow for larger pixels than would be possible with a smaller chip (given the same resolution). Larger pixels provide two benefits. Images made at high ISO exhibit less digital noise so there's less need for aggressive noise-reduction processing that can smudge intricate details. And they provide images with wider dynamic range: more detail in shadow areas especially, without the need for special processing. The following are the recent full-frame models targeting photo enthusiasts.

### CANON EOS 5D MK III



This well-sealed 22.3-MP DSLR with a magnesium-alloy chassis features an oversized 3.2" LCD, the iFCL 63-zone metering and a very versatile 61-point High-Density AF system with 10 to 21 cross-type points, depending on the lens that's used. The vast range of amenities includes in-camera Raw editing, HDR and Multi-exposure options, Full HD Movie mode with Single Shot AF and compatibility with a wireless file transmitter and GPS accessory.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 100% • FIXED 3.2" (1.04-MILLION-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **AUTO+, P, A, S, M, AUTOFLASH, SILENT, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **6 FPS • 3 FPS IN SILENT MODE**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE • NO BUILT-IN FLASH**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **152 X 116.4 X 76.4 MM • 950 G**

**\$3200 BODY ONLY OR \$3800 WITH 24-105 MM IS LENS (STREET)**

**CANON.CA**

### CANON EOS 6D



Quite compact and affordable for a full-frame 20.2-MP DSLR with large pixels plus built-in Wi-Fi and GPS, the EOS 6D offers many amenities. These include Silent mode, the latest 63-zone iFCL light meter, 11-point AF with one cross-type point and excellent response in low light, HDR options, Single Shot AF in Full HD Movie mode, a Multi-Frame mode for excellent quality JPEGs at high ISO and Multiple-exposure options.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 97% • FIXED 3" (1.04-MILLION-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **AUTO, P, A, S, M, SILENT, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **4.5 FPS • 3 FPS IN SILENT MODE**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **VERY EXTENSIVE • NO BUILT-IN FLASH** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **145 X 112 X 71 MM • 760 G**

**\$1700 BODY ONLY OR \$2300 WITH 24-105 MM L USM IS LENS (STREET)**

**CANON.CA**

### NIKON D810



A pro-calibre 36-MP DSLR in a well-sealed magnesium-alloy chassis, the D810 with 51-point AF omits the low-pass filter for maximum per-pixel resolution and uses an improved processor. It gains a 5-point Group-area AF option, features for reduced internal vibrations, 5 fps (and faster in crop modes), a special spot metering mode for greater highlight detail and offers a vast range of advanced features in Movie mode including HDMI out to an external device and a new picture style for (Flat) for great dynamic range in movies.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 100% • FIXED 3.2" (1.23 MILLION-DOT) SCREEN** // MODES: **P, A, S, M, FULL HD MOVIE**

FRAMING RATE: **5 FPS, 7 FPS IN DX CROP MODE**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE • COMPATIBLE WITH FILE TRANSMITTER UNIT**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **146 X 123 X 81.5 MM • 980 G**

**\$3500 BODY ONLY (STREET)**

**NIKON.CA**

### NIKON D750



Resembling the D610 but closer to the D810 in feature set (though retaining a low-pass filter), this well-sealed 24.3-MP model offers two extras: built-in Wi-Fi and a 3.2" (1.2-million-dot) LCD that can be tilted. It employs the 51-point AF system with 15 cross-type points, the 91,000-pixel meter with the highlight-weighted spot option and is very fast at 6.5 fps. Like the D810, the D750 offers great Movie mode versatility.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 100% • TILTING 3.2" (1.23 MILLION-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **AUTO, P, A, S, M, FULL HD MOVIE** // FRAMING RATE: **6.5 FPS**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE • BUILT-IN WI-FI** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **140 X 113 X 78 MM • 840 G**

**\$2450 BODY ONLY (STREET)**

**NIKON.CA**



## NIKON D610

Quite compact and affordable, this 24.3-MP DSLR with a well-sealed body including some magnesium-alloy components, features an oversized LCD and a 16-bit processor. The D610 offers 39-point AF with 9 cross-type points and a 3D Tracking mode. Other amenities include HDR and time-lapse photography options, versatile Full HD Movie mode with Continuous AF, image-retouching tools in Playback mode and compatibility with a Wi-Fi adapter for communication with smart devices.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTICAL 100% • 3.2" (921,000-DOT) SCREEN**

MODES: **AUTO, P, A, S, M, SCENE MODES, HDR, FULL HD MOVIE // FRAMING RATE: 6 FPS (3 FPS IN QUIET MODE)**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: 141 X 113 X 82 MM • 850 G**

**\$1900 BODY ONLY OR \$2400 WITH 24-85 MM VR LENS (STREET)**

**NIKON.CA**



## SONY α99

This 24.3-MP SLT camera with oversized pixels in a well-sealed magnesium-alloy body with an ultra-high resolution electronic viewfinder offers a Dual AF module (contrast- and phase-detect AF) with 19-point AF with 11 cross-type points plus 102 focus-assist points. Important α99 features include Continuous AF and many advanced features in Full HD movie mode, Auto HDR and Panorama and two special modes for excellent quality at high ISO levels.

VIEWFINDER/LCD: **2.36-MILLION-DOT 100% EVF • ARTICULATED 3" (1.3-MILLION-DOT) LCD**

MODES: **2 AUTO, P, A, S, M, PANORAMA, CONT. ADVANCE PRIORITY, FULL HD MOVIE**

FRAMING RATE: **6 FPS (10 FPS AT REDUCED RESOLUTION)**

FEATURE SET/OVERRIDES: **UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE • BUILT-IN GPS AND STABILIZER • NO BUILT-IN FLASH**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **147 X 111.2 X 78.4 MM • 816 G**

**\$2149 BODY ONLY OR \$2850 WITH 28-75 MM LENS (STREET)**

**SONY.CA**



## MEDIUM-FORMAT DSLRS OVERSIZED SENSORS FOR ULTRA HIGH RESOLUTION

Just as there were cameras that employed film larger than the 24 x 36 mm frame, you can also find digital cameras with an oversized sensor. Some models are modular (a separate body and attachable back) while others are made as a single unit (including all components). Several major companies are active in this category and all have introduced or announced models in 2014. Here's a brief summary of the latest including some not yet available in Canada.

**Hasselblad HD5 200c:** A 50-MP camera with a 32.9 x 43.8 mm sensor, this one features multi-shot capture that can produce up to 200-MP resolution. It's an autofocus camera with any of the 12 H-system AF lenses and its processor automatically refocuses as necessary when the camera to subject distance changes. \$53,000 (list) hasselbladusa.com

**Leica S (Typ 007):** This 37.5-MP model with a 30 x 45 mm CMOS sensor is comparable in styling and feature set to 35-mm DSLRs; 4K video is a bonus. There's also the S-E (Typ 006), a similar but more affordable model using a 37.5-MP CCD sensor (also 30 x 45 mm). Ten S lenses are available. \$27,500, for Leica S; \$16,900 for Leica S-E (street) leica-camera.com

**Mamiya 645DF:** Mamiya cameras accept digital backs such as the new 50-MP Leaf Credo or PhaseOne IQ250 with 33 x 44 mm sensor. This body includes a 3-point AF system, 1.2-fps drive mode and the essential modes and overrides. \$35,000 to \$65,000, with a back and 80-mm lens (estimated) phaseone.com

**Pentax 645Z:** By far the most affordable of the new cameras, and employing a 32.8 x 43.8 mm sensor, this is a well-sealed magnesium-alloy 51.4-MP camera with a tilting 3.2" (1.04-million-dot) LCD and large (98%) optical viewfinder. It's loaded with capabilities including Full HD video, 27-point AF, 3-fps drive mode and 86,000-pixel metering. Pentax now offers 16 AF lenses for this system; others are already under development in order to expand the system. \$9000 (street) ricoh-imaging.ca



# DSLR LENSES

## COMPLETE YOUR SYSTEM WITH THE PERFECT OPTICS

By Peter K. Burian

Many lenses incorporate a camera-shake compensating system and this usually does not add much to the size or price.

Considering the number of DSLR cameras on the market, it's understandable that virtually every lens manufacturer offers a vast range of products. You can find many types from fisheye, to ultra wide, to macro for high-magnification close-ups and to super telephoto. Each type has its own unique characteristics, making it valuable for problem-solving or achieving specific effects. While shopping for a lens, you'll want to consider the following aspects.

### COMPATIBILITY

Some lenses are large multiplatform types, designated as FX, EF, DG, DA, etc. depending on the brand. These are perfect for full-frame digital SLRs with a 24 x 36 mm sensor and also suitable for DSLRs with a smaller sensor. On the other hand, most current lenses are the smaller type,

designated as DX, EF-S, DT, DC and so on. They can project only the smaller image circle required by a DSLR with a smaller sensor: 15.8 x 23.6 mm or 22.3 x 14.9 mm or 18 x 13.5 mm in size. Because the vast majority of lens sales are in the smaller format, I'll cover primarily this type of products in this section of the Guide.

### MAXIMUM APERTURE

Lenses with wide apertures such as f/1.4 to f/2.8 are called "fast" because their greater light-gathering ability

allows for shooting at faster shutter speeds than with lenses that have a smaller maximum aperture such as f/4 to f/5.6. This allows you to shoot with a low-ISO level (for superior image quality) in more situations, without the need for flash or a tripod. Of course, fast lenses tend to be large, heavy and expensive.

### PREMIUM-GRADE OPTICS

An increasing number of lenses incorporate low-dispersion glass (denoted as LD, ED, ELD, SLD, SD or UD) and/or aspherical elements (with a non-spherical surface). Both types are intended to correct optical aberrations for more consistent sharpness across the frame, especially at wide apertures.

### ULTRASONIC FOCUS

All brands include some lenses with an ultrasonic or supersonic or hypersonic or Piezo-Drive or Silent Wave motor for quiet and fast autofocus. Some new lenses employ a stepping motor (STM) that also provides quiet and fast AF that's ideal in movie mode.

### IMAGE STABILIZER

Many lenses incorporate a camera-shake compensating system and this usually does not add much to the size or price. However, current Pentax, Olympus and Sony DSLRs feature a stabilizer in the body so the lenses for such cameras do not need to be equipped with stabilizers

## ULTRA WIDE-ANGLE LENSES

### CANON EF-S 10-18 MM F/4.5-5.6 IS STM



Very small, light and affordable, this zoom is equipped with the nearly silent STM autofocus motor for great speed and smooth response, ideal especially when shooting video. Other benefits include an image stabilizer with up to four stops of shake correction, two high-tech elements for fine quality and enhanced lens coatings for resistance to flare.

COMPATIBILITY: **SMALL-SENSOR EOS DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 UD AND 1 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **22 CM** • **MAX. MAGNIFICATION: 0.15X** // FEATURES: **STABILIZER • CIRCULAR APERTURE**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **74.6 X 72 MM • 240 G • 67-MM FILTER**

**\$360** (STREET)

**CANON.CA**

### NIKON AF-S DX 10-24 MM F/3.5-4.5G ED



This lens extends to a longer focal length than most ultra-wides and benefits from five high-tech elements for very good edge-to-edge sharpness at nearly all apertures and focal lengths, as well as Super Integrated Coating that makes light transmission more efficient. It's equipped with the very fast Silent Wave focus motor and allows for manual focus override in AF mode.

COMPATIBILITY: **PRIMARILY FOR SMALL-SENSOR NIKON DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **2 ED AND 3 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **24 CM** • **0.20X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **CIRCULAR APERTURE**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **82.5 X 87 MM • 77-MM FILTER • 460 G**

**\$900** (STREET)

**NIKON.CA**



## PENTAX HD DA 20-40 MM F/2.8-4 ED LIMITED

This gorgeous Limited zoom with a smooth, quiet (DC) micro motor and quick-shift manual-focus override, boasts weather-resistant build and rugged construction. The black or silver lens barrel, hood and cap are all made of hand-machined aluminum. The optical formula includes two types of low-dispersion glass and new HD multi-layer coatings for fine image quality.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL PENTAX DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 ED AND 1 SUPER ED**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **28 CM • 0.20X MAX. MAGNIFICATION**

FEATURES: **WEATHER RESISTANT • CIRCULAR APERTURE**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **71 X 69 MM • 55-MM FILTER • 283 G**

**\$930** (STREET)

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



## SIGMA 8-16 MM DC HSM

The first true super wide-angle (not fisheye) zoom for small-sensor DSLRs, this high-grade lens benefits from low-dispersion and aspherical elements, Super Multi-Layer Coating and fast, silent ultrasonic HSM autofocus. Do note that the protruding element precludes the use of filters. Some shooters will prefer the multi-platform Sigma 12-24 mm f/4.5-5.6 II DG HSM (\$1150) because it accepts filters.

COMPATIBILITY: **SMALL-SENSOR CANON, NIKON, PENTAX, SIGMA AND SONY DSLRS**

OPTICAL FORMULA: **4 FLD, 2 MOULDED GLASS, 1 HYBRID ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **25 CM • 0.12X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **BUILT-IN HOOD**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **75 X 106 MM • NO FILTER THREADS • 545 G**

**\$870** (STREET)

**SIGMACANADA.CA**



## SONY DT 11-18 MM F/4.5-5.6

Optimized for fine quality across the entire frame, this ultra-wide zoom with a circular-aperture diaphragm is quite rugged and includes both aspherical and Extra Low Dispersion elements as well as multi-layer coatings to minimize flare. Autofocus is not Supersonic, but internal focusing ensures that AF is adequately fast for the types of subjects we often shoot with an ultra-wide lens.

COMPATIBILITY: **PRIMARILY FOR SMALL-SENSOR SONY DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 ED AND 3 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **25 CM • 0.125X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **INTERNAL FOCUS**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **83 X 81 MM • 77-MM FILTER • 360 G**

**\$800** (STREET)

**SONY.CA**



## TOKINA AT-X 12-28 MM F/4 PRO DX

The AT-X ultra-wide lenses have always been highly rated and this model is particularly impressive thanks to high-grade optics, internal focusing, a clutch for shifting from AF to MF, and a new (magnetic precision) AF sensor and Silent Drive Module. These combine to provide fast AF and to ensure autofocus even with Nikon DSLRs not equipped with a built-in AF motor.

COMPATIBILITY: **SMALL-SENSOR CANON AND NIKON DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 SD AND 2 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **25 CM • 0.20X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **SILENT DRIVE AF**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **84 X 90.2 MM • 77-MM FILTER • 530 G**

**\$700** (STREET)

**DAYMEN.CA**



## STANDARD ZOOM LENSES

**CANON EF 24-105 MM F/3.5-5.6 IS STM**

Smaller and more affordable than the f/4 model, this multi-platform zoom with high-grade optics employs a stepping AF motor for fast, quiet AF, important especially in Movie mode. Internal focus, a high-speed CPU and new AF algorithms also help provide superior AF performance. Manual focus is possible in AF mode; the stabilizer provides four stops of camera-shake correction.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL EOS DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 UD AND 2 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **40 CM** • **MAX. MAGNIFICATION TBA** // FEATURES: **STABILIZER • STEPPING AF MOTOR**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **83.4 X 104 MM • 77-MM FILTER • 525 G**

**\$700 (STREET)**

**CANON.CA**

**NIKON AF-S DX 18-140 MM F/3.5-5.6G ED VR**

Offering a versatile range of focal lengths in a very portable package, this lens with high-grade elements and Super Integrated Coating features a VR stabilizer that provides a four-stop camera-shake compensation. Autofocus is fast thanks to the internal focus mechanism and the Silent Wave motor; manual focus override is available in AF mode as with more expensive lenses.

COMPATIBILITY: **SMALL-SENSOR NIKON DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 ED AND 1 ASPHERICAL ELEMENT**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **45 CM • 0.23X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **VR STABILIZER**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **78 X 97 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 490 G**

**\$650 (STREET)**

**NIKON.CA**

**NIKON AF-S DX 16-85 MM F/3.5-5.6G ED VR**

Incorporating the highly effective VR II stabilizer and an impressive optical formula, this is a very fine Nikon DX "standard" zoom. Features include internal focus, Super Integrated coatings, manual focus override in AF mode and a fast Silent Wave (ultrasonic) motor. As with all AF-S lenses, autofocus is available even with Nikon DSLRs that do not incorporate an in-camera focus motor.

COMPATIBILITY: **PRIMARILY FOR SMALL-SENSOR NIKON DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **2 ED AND 3 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **38 CM • 0.127 MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **VR II STABILIZER**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **72 X 85 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 485 G**

**\$700 (STREET)**

**NIKON.CA**

**OLYMPUS ZUIKO 14-54 MM F/2.8-3.5 II**

This high-grade, splash- and dust-proof model features internal focusing, a circular-aperture diaphragm and conventional (not ultrasonic) but quick autofocus. It's compatible with Olympus' E-series DSLR cameras' High Speed Imager AF Live View mode, useful when shooting stills or video clips with fast, smooth autofocus. This is a very fine wide-aperture aspherical zoom that should satisfy serious photo enthusiasts.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL OLYMPUS AND LUMIX DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **3 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **22 CM • 0.52X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **INTERNAL FOCUS • SPLASH RESISTANT**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **75 X 89 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 440 G**

**\$630 (STREET)**

**OLYMPUSCANADA.COM**

**PENTAX HD DA 16-85 MM F/3.5-5.6 ED DC WR**

A new "standard" zoom for Pentax DSLRs with a versatile range of focal lengths, this lens with HD and Super Protect coatings, is also weather-resistant. Its optical formula includes 4 high-tech elements for minimizing distortion as well as all types of aberrations. The focus motor with DC technology makes its operation quiet, especially useful in Movie mode.

COMPATIBILITY: **PENTAX DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 ED AND 3 ASPH**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **35 CM • MAX. MAGNIFICATION 0.26X** // FEATURES: **WEATHER RESISTANCE • HD AND SUPER PROTECT COATING** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **78 X 94 MM • 72 MM FILTER • 488 G**

**\$800 (LIST)**

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



## SIGMA ART 24-105 MM F/4 DG OS HSM

Suitable for both full-frame and small-sensor DSLRs, this beautiful Art series zoom boasts an optical formula with three types of high-tech glass. It also features very rugged construction, an optical stabilizer, the fast/silent Hypersonic AF and a circular-aperture diaphragm. It's compatible with Sigma's USB Dock and the mount-conversion service in case you switch to another brand of DSLR.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL CANON, NIKON AND SIGMA DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **2 FLD, 2 SLD AND 3 ASPHERICAL**  
 MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **45 CM • 0.22X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **USB DOCK COMPATIBLE**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **75 X 93 MM • 82-MM FILTER • 885 G**

**\$950** (STREET)

**SIGMACANADA.CA**



## SONY 18-135 MM F/3.5-5.6 SAM

Offering a greater-than-average range of focal lengths for versatility, this lens features a premium-grade optical formula. Other amenities include a circular-aperture diaphragm, internal focusing and SAM autofocus for smooth, quiet and fast AF operation when shooting stills or video clips. Direct Manual Focus allows for fine-tuning focus manually when desired, without switching out of AF mode.

COMPATIBILITY: **SMALL-SENSOR SONY ALPHA CAMERAS**  
 OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 ED AND DUAL ASPH**  
 MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **43 CM • 0.25X MAX. MAGNIFICATION**  
 FEATURES: **CIRCULAR APERTURE**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **76 X 89 MM • 62-MM FILTER • 398 G**

**\$550** (STREET)

**SONY.CA**



## TELEPHOTO LENSES

### CANON EF-S 55-250 MM F/4-5.6 IS STM

Featuring a stepping motor for smooth, silent autofocus plus internal focusing, this lens with Image Stabilizer provides fast, reliable autofocus. It features a UD element and enhanced coatings for fine image quality as well as a circular-aperture diaphragm for pleasing bokeh. This compact zoom is more expensive than the conventional 55-250 mm model but the extra features offer good value.

COMPATIBILITY: **SMALL-SENSOR EOS DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 UD**  
 MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **85 CM • 0.29X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **STABILIZER**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **70 X 111 MM • 58-MM FILTER • 375 G**

**\$400** (STREET)

**CANON.CA**



### NIKON AF-S DX 55-300 MM F/4.5-5.6G ED VR

Although quite affordable this nicely finished lens targets photo enthusiasts with high-tech optical elements, a circular-aperture diaphragm and VR II stabilizer, with four stops of camera-shake correction and an automatic tripod-recognition system. It's quite rugged and beautifully finished but also very portable. Nikon's Super Integrated Coating maximizes light transmission and also minimizes flare and ghosting.

COMPATIBILITY: **PRIMARILY FOR SMALL-SENSOR NIKON DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **2 ED AND 1 HRI**  
 MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **140 CM • 0.28X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **VR STABILIZER**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **77 X 123 MM • 58-MM FILTER • 580 G**

**\$400** (STREET)

**NIKON.CA**





## OLYMPUS ZUIKO 50-200 MM F/2.8-3.5 SWD

For a 100-400 mm equivalent lens, this one is relatively compact, although the internal barrel does extend considerably at long focal lengths. Focusing is internal and the Supersonic AF system is quiet and fast. Because most Olympus DSLR bodies are equipped with an image stabilizer, this very rugged lens can often be used hand-held, but a tripod-mounting collar is included.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL OLYMPUS DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **3 ED**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **120 CM • 0.21X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **TRIPOD COLLAR**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **87 X 157 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 995 G**

**\$1260 (STREET)**

**OLYMPUSCANADA.COM**



## PENTAX HD DA 55-300 MM F/4-5.8 ED WR

This versatile, weather-resistant zoom lens features the new high-grade multi-layer HD coating for greater light transmittance and over 50% lower reflectance for effective control of flare and ghosting. Although it's affordable, benefits include two low-dispersion elements, a quick-shift system for changing between AF and MF mode and Super Protect coating on the front element.

COMPATIBILITY: **PENTAX DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **2 ED**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **140 CM • MAX. MAGNIFICATION 0.28X** // FEATURES: **WEATHER RESISTANT**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **71 X 112 MM • 58-MM FILTER • 466 G**

**\$450 (STREET)**

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



## SIGMA 150-600 MM F/5-6.3 DG OS HSM

Two distinct models of this lens are available, both with OS stabilizer with a panning mode, quiet/faster AF and USB-dock compatible. Sports is the very rugged pro model with superior optics, while Contemporary is more affordable and features a different optical formula. The specs below relate to the latter. The mount (but not the barrel) is dust/water proof and the front element coating resists water and oil.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL CANON, NIKON AND SIGMA SLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **3 SLD AND 1 FLD**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **2.8 M • 0.20 MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **STABILIZER • TRIPOD COLLAR**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **105 X 260 MM • 95-MM FILTER • WEIGHT TBA**

**\$2300 SPORTS PRICE TBA CONTEMPORARY (STREET)**

**SIGMACANADA.CA**



## SONY 70-400 MM F/4-5.6 G SSM II

More versatile than the 70-300 mm G SSM lens (\$950), this rugged, off-white version II tele-zoom is impressive in all aspects. Benefits include the new Nano AR Coating, an improved Super Sonic AF system plus internal focusing for faster, smoother, more reliable performance, a short focus distance and two pieces of ED glass. Stabilization is provided by the camera's SteadyShot system.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL SONY SLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **2 ED**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **150 CM • 0.27X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **TRIPOD COLLAR**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **94.5 X 196 MM • 77-MM FILTER • 1.5 KG**

**\$2180 (STREET)**

**SONY.CA**



## TOKINA AT-X 70-200 MM F/4 PRO FX VCM-S

This rugged, wide aperture multi-platform lens includes the latest technology: a nearly silent ring-type ultrasonic AF motor that allows for manual focus override in AF mode and Tokina's new VC image stabilizer for a three-stop shake compensation. Features include super low-dispersion glass, multi-layer coatings and internal focusing/zooming. An optional tripod collar is available.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL NIKON SLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **3 SLD**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **270 CM • 0.20X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **CIRCULAR APERTURE**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **82 X 167 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 980 G**

**\$1500 (LIST)**

**DAYMEN.CA**



## MACRO LENSES

### CANON EF 100 MM F/2.8L MACRO IS USM

This weatherproof lens with high-grade elements features fast and quiet Ultrasonic AF with a 4-stop benefit, circular diaphragm aperture, and internal focusing. It uses the Hybrid IS technology that can compensate for more types of camera shake than usual. Features also include a special element to block flare at f/2.8 and a three-position focus limiter switch. An optional tripod-mounting collar is available (\$300).

COMPATIBILITY: **MULTI-PLATFORM, FOR ALL CANON SLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **2 UD**  
 MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **30 CM • 1X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **HYBRID STABILIZER**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **78 X 123 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 625 G**

\$1050 (STREET)

CANON.CA



### NIKON AF-S DX 40 MM F/2.8G MICRO

In spite of its compact size, this affordable macro lens with Silent Wave AF features Nikon's Close-Range Correction System to provide razor-sharp focus at all focused distances as well as Super Integrated Coatings. Other amenities include a circular-aperture diaphragm for a pleasing bokeh (background rendition) and manual focus override in AF mode, a valuable feature in macro image making.

COMPATIBILITY: **PRIMARILY FOR SMALL-SENSOR NIKON DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **9 ELEMENTS**  
 MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **16.3 CM • 1X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **CLOSE-RANGE CORRECTION**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **64.5 X 68.5 MM • 52-MM FILTER • 280 G**

\$300 (STREET)

NIKON.CA



### PENTAX-D FA MACRO 100 MM F/2.8 WR

This multi-platform lens is quite rugged with a high-grade aluminum barrel and well sealed for weather resistance. Features include Super Protect coating on the front element, a circular-aperture diaphragm and Quick Shift for easy switching between AF and MF. Autofocus is conventional autofocus, not ultrasonic. While this lens does not employ high-tech elements, it does produce fine image quality.

COMPATIBILITY: **PENTAX SLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **9 ELEMENTS**  
 MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **13 CM • 1X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **QUICK-SHIFT FOCUS SYSTEM**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **65 X 80 MM • 49-MM FILTER • 340 G**

\$850 (STREET)

RICOH-IMAGING.CA



### SIGMA 105 MM MACRO F/2.8 EX DG OS HSM

This lens with image stabilizer, Hypersonic AF and floating focus to provide optimal image quality at all focused distances boasts a superior optical system. That includes Super Multi-Layer Coating plus high-refractive-index low-dispersion elements to minimize all types of aberrations. The wide maximum aperture is useful in low light or for shallow depth of field.

COMPATIBILITY: **CANON, NIKON, SONY AND SIGMA DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 SLD AND 1 HR SLD**  
 MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **31.2 CM • 1X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **FLOATING FOCUS • STABILIZER**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **126.4 X 78.7 MM • 62-MM FILTER • 725 G**

\$650 (STREET)

SIGMACANADA.CA



### SONY DT 30 MM F/2.8 MACRO SAM

This compact lens employs a Smooth Autofocus (stepping) Motor for fast, accurate AF. The wide maximum aperture makes manual focus in low light convenient, and allows for images with shallow depth of field, to blur cluttered background. No high-tech elements are used but there's a circular-aperture diaphragm for a pleasing background rendition. The image stabilizer is inside Sony cameras.

COMPATIBILITY: **PRIMARILY FOR SMALL-SENSOR SONY DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **6 ELEMENTS**  
 MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **13 CM • 1X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **SAM AUTOFOCUS**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **N/A • 55-MM FILTER • 150 G**

\$240 (STREET)

SONY.CA





## ZEISS MAKRO-PLANAR T\* 100 MM F/2 ZE/ZF.2

Boasting superior optical elements, a rugged metal barrel and an incredibly wide maximum aperture, this multi-platform manual focus lens is ideal for shallow depth of field to blur the background in macro or portrait photography. While the maximum magnification is 0.5x with full-frame DSLRs, the apparent magnification is greater with other DSLRs (as it is with all lenses) due to the narrower angle of view with smaller sensors.

COMPATIBILITY: **FOR ALL CANON AND NIKON DSLRS**

OPTICAL FORMULA: **2 ANOMALOUS PARTIAL DISTORTION**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **13 CM • 0.5X MAX. MAGNIFICATION**

FEATURES: **MANUAL FOCUS • FLOATING ELEMENT DESIGN**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **76 X 115 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 680 G**

**\$1900 (STREET)**

**ZEISS.CA**

## MULTI-PURPOSE ZOOMS

### CANON EF-S 18-200 MM F/3.5-5.6 IS



This lens includes high-tech elements for fine image quality especially at telephoto and a stabilizer with four stops of camera-shake correction. The Panning stabilizer mode is automatically activated when you move the lens quickly to pan with a moving subject. Autofocus is provided by a conventional (not ultrasonic) DC motor. The circular-aperture diaphragm can provide beautiful background blur effects.

COMPATIBILITY: **SMALL-SENSOR EOS DSLRS // OPTICAL FORMULA: 2 UD AND 1 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **45 CM • 0.24X MAX. MAGNIFICATION // FEATURES: STABILIZER**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **79 X 162 MM • 72-MM FILTER • 595 G**

**\$700 (STREET)**

**CANON.CA**

### NIKON AF-S DX 18-300 MM F/3.5-6.3G ED VR



Surprisingly compact and 30% lighter than the similar f/3.5-5.6 lens, this zoom includes three aspherical plus three ED glass elements to compensate for aberrations and distortion. It's equipped with the latest VR stabilizer that can provide a four-stop benefit in camera shake compensation and the fast, quiet Silent Wave focus motor with internal focusing.

COMPATIBILITY: **PRIMARILY FOR SMALL-SENSOR NIKON DSLRS // OPTICAL FORMULA: 3 ED AND 3 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **48 CM • 0.29X MAX. MAGNIFICATION // FEATURES: STABILIZER**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **79 X 99 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 550 G**

**\$880 (STREET)**

**NIKON.CA**

### PENTAX DA 18-270 MM F/3.5-6.3 ED SDM



Equipped with a circular-aperture diaphragm aperture and Supersonic SDM motor, this lens provides smooth, quiet autofocus. All current Pentax DSLRs are compatible with SDM but with much older DSLRs only manual focus is available. A stabilizer is not necessary since all Pentax DSLRs include this mechanism. Two ED glass elements provide fine image quality, especially impressive at 18 mm to 150 mm.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL PENTAX DSLRS // OPTICAL FORMULA: 2 ED ELEMENTS**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **49 CM • 0.26X MAX. MAGNIFICATION // FEATURES: CIRCULAR APERTURE**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **76 X 89 MM • 62-MM FILTER • 453 G**

**\$800 (STREET)**

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



## SIGMA 18-300 MM F/3.5-5.6 DC MACRO OS HSM

Incorporating an impressive optical formula plus Super Multi-Layer Coating, this very portable Contemporary series model employs an improved OS stabilizer except in the Pentax and Sony mount and the fast, quiet hypersonic AF motor. It can focus more closely than many others (especially with the AML72-01 adapter for 0.5x magnification). This lens is compatible with Sigma's optional USB dock.

COMPATIBILITY: **CANON, NIKON, PENTAX, SIGMA AND SONY SMALL-SENSOR DSLRS**

OPTICAL FORMULA: **4 FLD AND 1 SLD** // MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **39 CM • 0.33X MAX. MAGNIFICATION**

FEATURES: **STABILIZER** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **79 X 101.5 MM • 72-MM FILTER • 585 G**

**\$700** (STREET)

**SIGMACANADA.CA**



## SONY DT 18-250 MM F/3.5-6.3

Featuring five high-grade elements to correct optical aberrations, this lens would be a fine choice for families using a Sony Alpha DSLR. Since those cameras are equipped with an image stabilizer, there's no need for such a mechanism in the lens barrel. Features include internal focus, a circular-aperture diaphragm, conventional (not ultrasonic) autofocus and a zoom lock switch.

COMPATIBILITY: **PRIMARILY FOR SMALL-SENSOR SONY DSLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **2 ED AND 3 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **45 CM • 0.30X MAX. MAGNIFICATION** // FEATURES: **INTERNAL FOCUSING**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **73 X 86 MM • 62-MM FILTER • 440 G**

**\$600** (STREET)

**SONY.CA**



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**VISTEK.CA**

## PRIME (SINGLE FOCAL LENGTH) LENSES

Zooms lenses certainly offer great versatility and they outsell prime lenses by about ten to one, but many serious photographers own at least one single focal length lens. That's because this type usually offers a wider (and always constant) maximum aperture and superior image quality. Other benefits include compatibility with a teleconverter (though not always) and closer focusing with macro lenses.

### SIGMA ART 50 MM F/1.4



This rugged new multi-platform Art series lens would be suitable for owners of pro-grade DSLRs who want an unusually wide maximum aperture for available light photography (with less need for flash). A Hyper Sonic Motor ensures fast, quiet, smooth AF while Special Low Dispersion and aspherical elements plus Super Multi-Layer coating should provide fine image quality even at f/1.4.

COMPATIBILITY: **CANON, NIKON, SONY AND SIGMA SLRS**

OPTICAL FORMULA: **3 SLD, 1 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **40 CM • 0.178X MAX. MAGNIFICATION**

FEATURES: **INTERNAL FOCUSING • CIRCULAR APERTURE**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **85.4 X 99.9 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 815 G**

**\$1000 (STREET)**

**SIGMACANADA.CA**

### NIKON AF-S 35 MM F/1.8G ED



Also available in a 58-mm f/1.4G version (\$550), this lens is suitable for any Nikon DSLR regardless of sensor size but is optimized for full-frame DSLRs. Features include ED glass and an aspheric element for fine image quality as well as Super Integrated Coatings to practically eliminate ghosting and flare. A Silent Wave Motor provides fast, quiet AF operation.

COMPATIBILITY: **ALL NIKON SLRS** // OPTICAL FORMULA: **1 ED AND 1 ASPHERICAL**

MIN. FOCUS DISTANCE: **25 CM • 0.16X MAX. MAGNIFICATION**

FEATURES: **INTERNAL FOCUSING • CIRCULAR APERTURE**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **72 X 71 MM • 67-MM FILTER • 305 G**

**\$600 (STREET)**

**NIKON.CA**



## MANUAL-FOCUS LENSES

While autofocus lenses are the norm, a few manufacturers still market manual-focus lenses for digital SLRs. For example, Schneider-Kreuznach makes two absolutely fabulous, pro-grade (multi-platform) perspective-control tilt-shift lenses for Canon EOS and for Nikon digital and 35-mm SLRs. There's a 90-mm f/4 Makro-Symmar (about \$4000) and a 50-mm f/2.8 Super-Angulon model (\$4200). These lenses are distributed in Canada by Red Raven Marketing.

Another German manufacturer, Zeiss, markets a series of prime lenses, all purely manual focus as well, for Canon EOS and Nikon DSLRs. (The Zeiss ZA autofocus series for Sony Alpha cameras and CSCs is manufactured by Sony under Zeiss' license and standards; however, Zeiss does make the Touit AF lenses for CSCs.) The Zeiss lenses in EOS mount are designated as ZE while those in Nikon mount bear the ZF.2 designation.

Check out some of the Zeiss ZE or ZF.2 lenses at a photo retailer's counter, including the Makro Planar model discussed earlier, the OTUS 50 mm f/1.4 APO Distagon and the 85 mm f/1.4 APO. You'll find they are manufactured with metal alloys and have the heft and solidity of lenses made in the older, traditional manner. They're also designed to provide the highest standards of resolution, freedom from distortion and excellent flare control with T\* multi-layer coatings.



## The future looks brighter – indoors and out.

New to North America, Illumi and Mantis have set their sights on designing and producing the best lighting products imaginable. Their goal is to exceed the demanding expectations of professional photographers, from studio to on-location to dedicated strobists.

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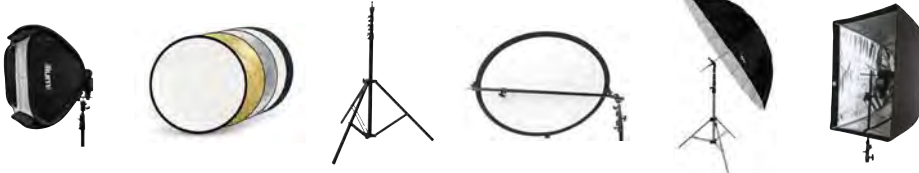


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# COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS

## A CATEGORY THAT GROWS IN EVERY IMAGINABLE DIRECTION

By David Tanaka

Diversity is the watchword for compact-system cameras (CSCs). Physically, the designs range from tiny slabs of metal and plastic to forms that could be mistaken for a traditional SLR. Some have just the view screen on the back as an interface, others are equipped with a built-in electronic viewfinder and a few accept an optional slide-on EVF. The dimensions of the imaging sensor range from tiny (the size found in some point-and-shoot cameras) to as large as you'd get in a DSLR. Likewise pixel counts cover a broad swath from 12 to a full 36 MP. Video capability is being pushed to the next level too; full HD is standard and several new models support 4K capture.



### GREATER PORTABILITY

A CSC is smaller (and hence lighter) than a DSLR because its design omits the pentaprism and the reflex mirror mechanism. That allows for a much smaller, slimmer, lighter body with a smaller lens mount. As a result, the lenses can also be more compact. Naturally, the cameras retain the potential for the types of features, modes, functions and overrides we expect from a DSLR. Granted, some of the CSCs are smaller than others; to some extent this depends on the size of the sensor that's used. However, the larger cameras typically include a built-in electronic viewfinder and that does add to the overall dimensions.

### GREAT DIVERSITY

In the CSC category, diversity of design is one of the hallmarks. Aside from the various shapes and sizes—as well as styles ranging from retro to ultra high tech—there is little similarity. There's not even a single common sensor size, although three brands do use the so-called APS-C-size sensor. (A few Sony cameras employ the even larger 24 x 36 mm imaging chip.) The one standard aspect is that they all accept interchangeable lenses. You'll get a better appreciation for the diversity after reading all of the essays on individual brands of CSCs.

### EXPANDABILITY

So, what binds this diverse lot together? The clue lies in the word "system," indicating that you can build out with other components to expand the basic capabilities of the camera itself. This includes a full line of accessories such as auxiliary flash and modules for additional functionality, but the primary advantage of the system approach is the ability to change lenses. Like DSLRs, the lens mounts are proprietary, so you couldn't mount a Sony NEX lens on a Canon M camera, for example. The one exception to that is Micro Four Thirds, a CSC design adopted by Olympus and Panasonic; lenses of either manufacturer are compatible with all cameras of either brand. Of course, some third-party manufacturers offer CSC lenses in two or more distinct mounts.



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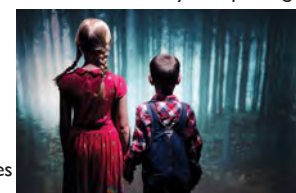
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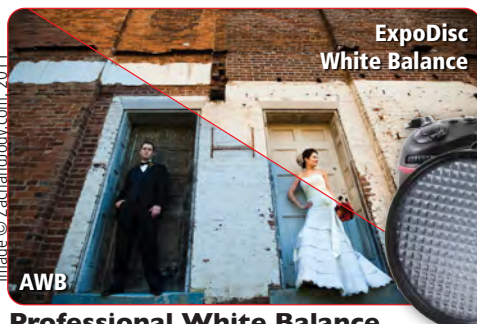
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# COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS

## THE CANON EOS M SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian



Very popular particularly in Asia, the Canon M system was first unveiled in July 2012, initially including one body and two zooms. Since then a second body, the M2 in three different colours and featuring faster autofocus plus Wi-Fi, became available, but only in China and Japan. Canon had also introduced two additional lenses worldwide and we expect a re-launch of the EOS M system in North America (perhaps in early 2015), hopefully including another camera and perhaps a few extra lenses.

We expect a re-launch of the EOS M system in North America (perhaps in early 2015).

The EOS M (in red or black) is currently only Canon CSC model for sale in Canada. The EOS M is a compact version of the EOS Rebel T4i DSLR with the 18-MP (22.3 x 14.9 mm) Hybrid CMOS sensor in a magnesium-alloy body. It is much smaller and is also equipped with fewer analogue controls for the sake of apparent simplicity. Canon omitted the viewfinder and any method for attaching an external finder. Instead, it relies heavily on its 3" (1.04-million-dot) touch-screen LCD that provides an excellent user experience. There's no built-in flash but the hot shoe is compatible with Canon's Speedlite EX series flash units, including the small 90EX (about \$130; included in some EOS M kits). This unit can also be used as a master transmitter to wirelessly control multiple off-camera flash units.

Like other CSC models, this one is equipped with a new mount, called EF-M. Hence, you cannot use EF-M lenses on Canon DSLRs but you can use the entire (and huge) family of the DSLR lenses on the EOS M, with the optional EF-EOS M adapter (about \$200).

The EOS M provides fine image quality, a 4.3-fps drive mode, a versatile AF system, a Full HD Movie mode with stereo sound and a great deal more. It targets photographers first upgrading from a point-and-shoot camera who want superior image quality and versatility, plus the ability to change lenses, while retaining simplicity of operation. As a bonus the kit is very reasonably priced.

Since this camera benefits from components developed for the T4i, including the DIGIC 5 processor, it's impressive in many aspects. The following are especially worth noting.

### HYBRID CMOS AF

This chip provides both phase-detection AF and contrast-detection AF for focusing, offering the best of both worlds. Initially, autofocus was a bit slow, but Canon released new firmware (v. 2) in August 2013; this definitely helped to improve autofocus, particularly in One Shot AF mode.

### STM LENS TECHNOLOGY

A stepping motor provides smooth and quiet continuous autofocus; this is particularly beneficial when shooting video.

### HANDHELD NIGHT SCENE MODE AND MULTI SHOT NOISE REDUCTION

These features allow the camera to shoot four consecutive JPEGs at a shutter speed fast enough to avoid camera shake, then combines them together into a single image with minimal digital noise. Image quality is better than would be possible with the traditional Noise Reduction feature. The amount of user-control varies depending on the mode selected.

### HDR BACKLIGHT CONTROL MODE

Another valuable option, this one shoots three consecutive JPEGs at different exposures and then combines them into a single image that maintains detail in both the shadow and highlight areas.

### VIDEO SNAPSHOT MODE

This mode allows for capturing short video clips (of 2, 4 or 8 seconds); it can then combine them into one "video snapshot album," a single movie file that can be played back with music.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

There are currently only three lenses available for the North American market: the EF-M 22 mm f/2 STM "pancake" prime lens, the 11-22 mm f/4-5.6 IS STM and the EF-M 18-55 mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM kit lens. (For the effective focal length, multiply by 1.6.) A 55-200 mm tele-zoom is also available in some countries but not in North America at the time of this writing. Tamron also markets an 18-200 mm lens in M mount. Accessories for the EOS M include the entire series of EX Speedlites and GPS Receiver GP-E2 as well as an adapter for using EF or EF-S lenses.



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# COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS

## THE FUJIFILM X SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian



Using the experience gained from their DSLR system, Fujifilm entered the mirrorless interchangeable-lens CSC market in February 2012 with the 16.3-MP X-Pro1. This is a beautifully crafted model with magnesium-alloy components and a retro design with metal-milled dials that hark back to the era of the 35-mm rangefinder cameras. It's also the only camera to feature a unique dual-magnification hybrid optical/electronic viewfinder.

Since then, Fujifilm has introduced several 16.3-MP models including the more affordable X-M1 and the very slim, lightweight, entry-level X-A1, both without a viewfinder and with more "typical" controls plus built-in Wi-Fi. More recent entries include the gorgeous X-E2, with most of the larger X-Pro1's features, but with a larger LCD, new Dual Hybrid AF system, improved X-Trans II CMOS sensor, a super fast EXR II processor and several extras including built-in Wi-Fi. While it's equipped with a conventional (2.35-million-dot) electronic viewfinder, the X-E2 is probably even more desirable than its predecessor and it includes built-in flash.

Resembling a small, retro DSLR with mechanical controls, the water/dust/freeze-resistant Fujifilm XT-1 and the newer Graphite Silver edition offer most of the larger X-Pro2's numerous features and technology, including Wi-Fi. A small flash unit is included in the kit.

Let's take a look at some of the noteworthy aspects of technology available with the X-series CSCs.

### X-TRANS CMOS SENSOR

Fujifilm's proprietary 15.6 x 23.6 mm sensor features an innovative colour filter array that reduces the generation of moiré and false colours, and eliminates the need for the internal optical low-pass filter. This enables the X-Trans and X-Trans II sensor to provide maximum per-pixel sharpness. (For the effective focal length, multiply by 1.5.) The entry-level X-A1 employs a conventional CMOS sensor.

### EXR PROCESSOR

Used by all the cameras—with an improved version II in the X-E2 and X-T1—this engine provides a burst speed of 5.6 fps (7 fps with the X-E2 and 8 fps with the XT-1) and features such as Multiple Exposure and Panorama modes, in-camera processing of Raw photos, a series of special-effect digital filters, dynamic range expansion and Film Simulation modes. Version II also provides a Lens Modulation function that optimizes the performance of any lens.

### SUPER-INTELLIGENT FLASH

This technology automatically moderates flash output in certain types of scenes, including close-ups to minimize the risk of blown-out highlights.

### ADVANCED AUTOFOCUS

Most of the cameras employ contrast-detect AF with a multi-point sensor but the Hybrid AF system in the X-E2 and X-T1 can also use phase-detect AF for even faster, more reliable autofocus.

### FULL HD MOVIE MODE

The Fujifilm X-cameras can record 1080p videos with stereo sound and autofocus. The basic overrides can be pre-set before recording.

### BUILT-IN WI-FI

Available with four of the cameras, Wi-Fi allows for wireless transfer of images and movies to a smart device running the free Fujifilm app.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

You can choose from 14 Fujinon lenses plus an adapter that allows for using M lenses. All are equipped with a manual focus ring; some feature a built-in OIS stabilizer; the WR models are weather resistant, and the XF series is equipped with an aperture control ring. The company's "roadmap" indicates that the XF 90 mm f/2 R, XF 16 mm f/1.4 R XF, 16-55 mm f/2.8 R WR and a super telephoto zoom will be released in 2015. Independent manufacturer Zeiss also markets AF lenses for the X-series cameras: the Touit 12 mm f/2.8, 32 mm f/1.8 and the Makro-Planar T\* 50 mm f/2.8. Fujifilm offers a series of accessories for each of the cameras, such as external flash, leather cases, handgrip, remote release and filters as well as an M-mount adapter for using Leica M-mount (manual-focus) lenses.

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# COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS

## THE NIKON 1 SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian



Best known for its DSLRs, including the professional models, Nikon has also been making CSC models with a new (very small) lens mount since October 2011. The first 10.1-MP Nikon 1 model targeted point-and-shoot users who wanted a compact/lightweight interchangeable-lens camera with great ease of use and fine image quality. Since then, Nikon has introduced additional models, still employing the 1" (13.2 x 8.8 mm) sensor in order to minimize body and lens size/weight.

The J and S series cameras tend to be very small and target enthusiasts; they have few control buttons and dials but advanced features are accessible through the menu. The new 18.4-MP J4 is especially impressive with its built-in Wi-Fi, Easy Panorama mode, 3" (1.04-million-dot) touch-screen LCD, 1080p60 HD video mode and sophisticated Hybrid autofocus system. It's very fast at 20 fps with continuous AF or 60 fps with focus locked. There's also the fully submersible AW-1, with most of the J3 features and the affordable 14.2-MP S2 with some J4 features.

The V series models are larger and offer DSLR-style controls, menus and feature sets for photo enthusiasts. They're not equipped with built-in flash but accept a Nikon 1 external flash unit. The 14.2-MP V2 is equipped with an electronic viewfinder but the 18.4-MP V3—with the newest Hybrid AF system, Wi-Fi, 1080/60p movie mode and a 3" (1.037-million-dot) tilting touch-screen LCD—is not. It's compatible with an add-on (2.36-million-dot) EVF; that accessory is included in the V3 plus lens kit. The V3 is absolutely loaded with features, and the 20/60-fps drive mode makes both the V2 and V3 faster than DSLRs.

Nikon offers some highly advanced technology in the 1 series, including a sensor without a low-pass filter in the V3 and J4 for maximum per-pixel resolution as well as built-in Wi-Fi. Other aspects include the following.

### ADVANCED HYBRID CMOS AF SYSTEM

This chip provides both phase-detection and contrast-detection multi-point AF for surprisingly fast, reliable autofocus. The camera automatically selects the appropriate AF system according to shooting situations and maintains focus tracking even with a fast-moving subject.

### FAST EXPEED PROCESSOR

This engine allows for a drive speed of a blazing 10 fps or higher (depending on the camera) at full resolution, with continuous autofocus; much faster drive is available with focus locked at the first frame.

### SMART PHOTO SELECTOR

This option causes the camera to record many JPEGs when the shutter-release button is pressed. The camera then saves only five frames: the ones that are technically best.

### NIGHT LANDSCAPE

Press the shutter-release button and the camera shoots a series of JPEGs at a high ISO for a fast shutter speed. They're automatically merged while eliminating much of the digital noise; the final image is very "clean" and exhibits minimal blur from camera shake.

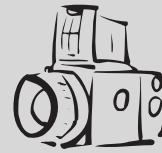
### MOTION SNAPSHOT

Full HD movie mode is becoming standard but this special feature records a video clip and a still photo. The processor slows the video down automatically for a semi slow-motion effect. The camera can combine them into a single clip, with a slow-motion video effect leading into the still image.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

There are currently 13 Nikon 1 Nikkor lenses, including two AW (underwater) models, most with high-tech elements and many with a VR stabilizer. (For the effective focal length, multiply by 2.7.) With the optional Mount Adapter FT1 the Nikon 1 cameras can also be used with most Nikon AF-S DSLR lenses. You'll find a series of 1 Nikon accessories although not all are suitable for all of the cameras. These include external flash units, an electronic viewfinder and handgrip for the V3, a GPS unit, stereo microphone, waterproof cases, close-up lens, leather cases and filters. There's also an adapter for the V2 that provides Wi-Fi connectivity.





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# COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS

## THE OLYMPUS DIGITAL PEN AND OM-D SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian



The second company to introduce a compact-system camera (in July 2009), Olympus had great success with the first Digital PEN model, the 12.3-MP Micro 4/3 E-P1 with its retro rangefinder styling. This model featured a built-in image stabilizer but no viewfinder; the flash was an add-on unit. Even today, Olympus bundles a small add-on flash unit with Micro Four Thirds cameras without built-in flash.

Since then Olympus has introduced many CSCs, all employing the same large Four Thirds (17.3 x 13 mm) sensor as their DSLRs. Each subsequent model has offered improvements, greater speed, superior AF and extra features, including more Art Filters for special effects. Some are equipped with an electronic viewfinder while a few accept an EVF as an accessory.

There are seven current CSC models. The flagship of the line is the full-featured, moderately large 16.3-MP OM-D E-M1 in a dust/splash/freeze-resistant body with Wi-Fi and an improved 5-axis image stabilizer. This one resembles a small DSLR with its large handgrip, faux pentaprism housing an oversized (2.36-million-dot) electronic viewfinder, 3" (1.04-million-dot) tilting touch-screen LCD and many conventional analogue controls. The E-M1 targets experienced photographers with, Full HD Movie mode, 10-fps drive speed (6.5 fps with Continuous AF), HDR, interval and time-lapse options. This model omits the optical low-pass filter to provide maximum per-pixel resolution; any moiré pattern can be removed later with software.

The E-P5 is the Digital Pen version of the large E-M5 but without the dust/water-resistant seals or the electronic viewfinder; it can be used with the optional VF-4 finder and it's equipped with a built-in flash that can provide wireless control for off-camera flash units. The hot shoe

accepts an optional flash unit. Several smaller, more affordable E-P series models are also available, such as the full-featured E-PL7 and the very compact E-PM2 that provides great simplicity.

Let's take a look at the technology available in the latest Olympus Micro Four-Thirds cameras; the following relates primarily to the high-end cameras which are most attractive to photo enthusiasts.

### MULTI-AXIS IMAGE STABILIZATION

This system in the camera body (E-M5, E-M1, E-P5 and E-PL7) compensates for vertical, horizontal and rotational camera shake.

### WELL-SEALED BODIES

Multiple ring-shaped seals on the E-M5 and E-M1 protect the camera from sand, dust, rain and water spray.

### BUILT-IN WI-FI

Available with the E-P5, E-M1, E-M10 and E-PL7, this allows for wireless transfer of images and movies to a smart device; the last can also be used as a remote controller.

### ADVANCED AF

The Frequency Acceleration Sensor Technology provides high-speed autofocus. The E-M1 benefits from a new Dual AF system with both phase- and contrast-detection technology. The new 40-150 mm f/2.8 lens boasts an unusual autofocus system employing dual linear VCOM motors.

### TRUEPIC VII PROCESSOR

Available in the E-M1, E-M10 and E-PL7, this new engine provides lens optimization when shooting JPEGs, with the specific processing required to get the absolutely best quality from any lens.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

Olympus now offers 19 M.Zuiko Digital lenses; the series covers focal lengths ranging from 9 mm to 300 mm. (For the effective focal length, multiply by 2.) Several others are currently in development. Of course, the cameras also accept the other brands of Micro Four Thirds lenses, from Panasonic, Sigma, Tamron, Tokina and Voigtlander (Cosina). And with an optional adapter, the Olympus cameras can use many of the larger Four-Thirds DSLR lenses, increasing the versatility of the system. Olympus also offers a series of accessories; not all are suitable for every model, however. You can find add-on electronic viewfinders, external flash units and flash brackets, macro, wide-angle and fish-eye converters, remote controllers, underwater housings, leather bags and filters.



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# COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS

## THE PANASONIC LUMIX G SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian



Well known for introducing the world's first interchangeable-lens mirrorless CSC in September 2008, the 12.1-MP Lumix DMC-G1, Panasonic remains a serious contender in this category. The G1 was also the first Micro 4/3-system model with a new lens mount that's also used by Olympus. However, the term "micro" refers only to the size of the body and lenses and not to the size of the sensor, which is actually quite large at 17.3 x 13 mm.

The company has introduced many cameras since then; six distinct models are currently available. The latest model, the unusually small 16-MP DMC-GM5, is fast at 5.8 fps (5 fps with Continuous AF) and offers amenities such as built-in Wi-Fi, unusually fast Light Speed AF, a Silent mode using the electronic shutter, a touch-screen 3" (921,000-dot) LCD and a built-in (1.17-million-dot) EVF; there's no built-in flash but a small add-on unit is an included accessory. The much larger, fully loaded 16-MP DMC-GH4, in a well-sealed magnesium-alloy body, boasts a (2.36-million-dot) electronic viewfinder, a 3" (1.036-million-dot) touch-screen LCD and Wi-Fi. It's capable of shooting at 12 fps (7 fps with Continuous AF) and employs an improved sensor and 49-point AF system. What's really impressive is that this camera can record 4K clips (3840 x 2160 to 29.97p or 4096 x 2160 to 24p) in addition to Full HD movies.

It's difficult to summarize the technology since it differs so much from camera to camera, but here's a glance at the best available in many of the latest G-series models.

### ADVANCED PROCESSING

The recent Lumix models provide a wealth of high-tech features, including Full HD Movie mode, and 4K with the GH4, which also offers pro-calibre video options, with Continuous AF, stereo sound and many overrides. The GM5 features a new Snap Movie Mode to shoot very short video clips that can later be connected in a smart device with a variety of interval fade effects and

music. The cameras provide numerous amenities for shooting stills, including special-effect filters, a full 22 with the GM5.

### LIVE FINDER

Several Lumix models, including the tiny GM-5, feature an electronic viewfinder. The tilting EVF in the GX7 is the most impressive with 2.765-million-dot resolution.

### TOUCH-SCREEN LCD

This amenity is also becoming common but the relevant cameras also retain analogue controls. Some of the LCDs can be tilted.

### LIGHT SPEED AF

Panasonic's contrast-detection autofocus system is very fast and reliable even in low light. The GX7, GH4 and new GM5 are particularly impressive in this respect.

### BUILT-IN WI-FI

This feature is available in many Lumix G cameras for wireless transfer of images and movies to a smart device running a free Panasonic app. The smart device can also be used as a remote controller. Some G models also include the NFC (Near Field Communication) to simplify making the connection between the devices.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

Panasonic markets roughly 20 G-series lenses, some with the Leica DC designation and many with a stabilizer (OIS) and/or high-tech optical elements. (For the effective focal length, multiply by 2.) Other Micro 4/3 lenses are available from Olympus (M. Zuiko), Sigma, Tamron, Tokina and Voigtlander (Cosina). It's possible to use entirely different lenses too with optional Lumix adapters, though with limitations as to available camera features. Other Panasonic add-ons include external flash units, a vertical grip for the GH3, a stereo mic, wide, tele, macro and fish-eye converters, and a remote control unit.



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# COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS

## THE PENTAX Q SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian

When the engineers at Ricoh (Pentax's parent company) were planning to develop the Q system, they were determined that the bodies and lenses would be significantly smaller than their competitors. They achieved this goal by specifying a 6.17 x 4.55 mm sensor for the original 12.4-MP Pentax Q that was announced in June 2011 and was indeed amazingly tiny. This sensor size, though with some improvements, was also used by the Q10, which features a slightly redesigned body. By comparison, the Pentax K-01 introduced in early 2011 was an entirely different concept since it used a larger APS-C format sensor and accepted DSLR lenses. The K-01 was never as popular as the tiny Q series models and has since been discontinued.

In June 2013, Pentax introduced the 12.4-MP Q7 with a slightly larger 7.44 x 5.58 mm (and superior) sensor with a surface area that's 53% greater. That modification allowed for larger pixels for superior quality, especially at ISO 400 and above. Hence, the Q7 body is not as petite as the Q10 body, but this is still the smallest and lightest CSC camera-and-lens combination on the market.

The Q7 was recently replaced by a similar new model with more pleasing styling and available in more colours, the Pentax Q-S1, with fixed 3" (460,000-dot) LCD. This one offers two additional Smart Effect digital filters, improved tracking and Face Detect AF, an enhanced Q Engine processor, and a new Continuous AF option in Movie mode (available at up to Full HD). Features include 5-fps drive speed, all important modes and overrides, a multi-exposure option and a reliable shake-reduction system using a gyro sensor.

Since the Q-S1 is the most desirable camera of the Q-series, let's take a look at its noteworthy aspects.

### HDR CAPTURE

This camera mode shoots 3 JPEGs of varying exposures and then merges them into one to preserve details in both the shadow areas and highlight areas.

### BOKEH CONTROL

Bokeh is look you get in the out-of-focus portion of an image, especially in the background. It's enhanced by

**The Q7 body is not as petite as the Q10 body, but this is still the smallest and lightest CSC camera-and-lens combination on the market.**

shallow depth of field for obvious background blur, usually achieved with a wide aperture. However, very shallow depth of field is difficult to achieve with any small-sensor camera. Hence, Pentax offers a unique bokeh-control function that can automatically provide an image with a defocused background and foreground.

### IN-CAMERA IMAGE ENHANCEMENT

In addition to using digital filters in capture mode, you can modify a JPEG later with filters for creative effects. In-camera Raw processing is also available in Playback mode.

### ENHANCED EYE-FI COMPATIBILITY

Many digital cameras are compatible with memory cards that provide wireless Wi-Fi connectivity, but the Q-S1 (like some others) was specifically designed for full compatibility with the Eye-Fi brand of SD cards, including the built-in menus available with those cards.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

To date, eight Q lenses have been released, but if you own some K-mount DSLR lenses, they can be used on the Q cameras with the optional Q-mount to K-mount adapter. The Q series includes three zooms: 5-15 mm f/2.8-f/4.5, 15-45 mm f/2.8 and 3.8-5.9 mm f/3.7-5.9 ultra-wide. You'll also find an incredibly slim Mount Shield 11.5-mm f/9 lens, a 3.2-mm f/5.6 Fisheye lens and two inexpensive "Toy" lenses. All are compatible with the Q10 as well as the larger Q7 but the equivalent focal length depends on the camera that's used, because of the difference in sensor size. (For the effective focal length with the Q7 multiply by 4.7; with the other Q cameras, multiply by 5.5.) You won't find many accessories for the Q system, but Pentax does market a few lens hoods for specific lenses, a 40.5-mm polarizing filter, some camera bags and cases, as well as a strap.



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# COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS

## THE SAMSUNG NX-SERIES SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian



Since introducing their first CSC, the 15.1-MP NX10 with three NX lenses in January 2010, Samsung has been prolific in developing new technology and introducing new products. The NX10 was the only mirrorless camera to employ the large (so-called APS-C) 23.4 x 15.6 mm sensor in early 2010; most NX cameras still employ this size, although the NX Mini uses a smaller sensor for very compact size. The largest NX cameras are equipped with an electronic viewfinder and a hot shoe for an optional-external flash unit. Most models include built-in flash and some models offer a tilting LCD.

The large 20.3-MP Galaxy NX received a lot of press when it was announced in June 2013 since it employs the Android (Jelly Bean) operating system, allowing for use of the Internet and numerous apps. It also boasts Wi-Fi with 3G/4G and LTE technology, allowing for Wi-Fi anywhere that cell phone reception is available. Its electronic viewfinder offers 614,000-dot resolution and the LCD is huge: it's a fixed 4.8" (921,000-dot) touch-screen display. The Galaxy NX is competitive with DSLRs in feature set, including its Hybrid AF system, 8.6-fps drive mode, hot shoe for flash and many modes including Full HD Movie. However, it's equipped with few analogue controls so the operation is heavily touch-screen dependent.

At the other end of the spectrum, there's the new 20-MP NX Mini that is tiny by comparison since it employs a small 1" (8 x 13.2 mm) sensor. Even so, it's equipped with a tilting 3" (460,000-dot) touch-screen LCD. However, there are very few external controls so the operation requires the use of the touch screen for most aspects. It's equipped with Wi-Fi of course, with NFC. This family-oriented camera offers P, A, S, M and 1080/30p Movie mode, a Raw capture option, the essential overrides plus 6-fps drive speed.

The largest NX cameras are equipped with an electronic viewfinder and a hot shoe for an optional-external flash unit.

Samsung has developed a lot of useful technology and features for the NX cameras, including the following.

### LENS PRIORITY MODE

This mode provides scene options specifically designed for the lens being used. When users change to a specialized lens like a Macro, the camera recognizes it and automatically configures the settings that best match that lens.

### ADVANCED HYBRID AF

The full-size cameras (such as the NX300 and Galaxy NX) use phase-detection AF to quickly determine the subject distance and then use contrast-detection AF fine-tune the focus.

### I-FUNCTION

Many of the NX lenses are equipped with this feature, a control that allows users to change settings by rotating a ring on the lens. This allows the shooter to keep the camera to the eye while making changes.

### I-DEPTH

This extra feature (NX300 and Galaxy NX) offers an easy way to adjust the depth of field for an image using the lens's i-Function system.

### WI-FI NFC

All recent models offer Wi-Fi with NFC but the Galaxy NX is particularly versatile with dual-channel capability for more reliable high-speed service when using the internet or transferring images and videos to a smart device.

### ANDROID 4.2 JELLY BEAN

The Galaxy NX provides the Android OS functionality similar to what you get with a smart phone. Download Android apps to personalize the camera, edit images, add special effects, and stay in touch with friends and family.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

There are 13 NX lenses, some with an image stabilizer, covering focal lengths from 12 mm to 200 mm (the longer focal is available only with zooms). The series includes a unique 45-mm f/1.8 lens with 2D/3D capability. (For the effective focal length, multiply by 1.54.) Accessories are available too, such as cases, external flash units, remote control cables and filters.



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# COMPACT-SYSTEM CAMERAS

## THE SONY NEX AND ALPHA SYSTEM

By Peter K. Burian

Sony entered the mirrorless interchangeable-lens camera market in July 2010 with two unusually slim and light-weight NEX models with a large APS-C size (23.5 x 15.6 mm) CMOS sensor. Both were equipped with a new E-mount that continues to be used in four of the current seven models as well. After using the NEX designation for a few years, Sony dropped that label in 2013; since then, all of their new CSC models have borne the Alpha (α) designation.

Today, the Sony CSC line includes entry-level Alpha cameras, like the 20.1-MP α3000 and α5000, and other recent models such as the 24.3-MP α5100 and α6000. In 2013, Sony also introduced full-frame Alpha cameras, the α7, α7R and, in 2014, the α7S. These are equipped with a new FE-mount and provide full resolution only with the new FE (full-frame) lenses but can also be used with the smaller E-series lenses.

The full-frame models are noteworthy since they employ a huge 24 x 36 mm sensor; they are the first of this type in the CSC category. The magnesium-alloy α7R is a 36.4-MP model while the α7 offers 24.3-MP resolution. Both are equipped with a high-resolution EVF, a tilting LCD and a wealth of DSLR-style functions and controls. They offer Wi-Fi with NFC, some important new amenities and a BIONZ X processor; the α7R also employs the latest Hybrid AF system.

The new 12.2-MP α7S, with a 3" (921,000-dot) tilting LCD, (2.36-million-dot) OLED electronic viewfinder and Hybrid AF is particularly remarkable because its oversized pixels and BIONZ X processor allow for superior image quality even at very high ISO levels. This camera can

record Full HD movies to the memory card but it can also record 4K video clips to an optional external 4K recorder via an HDMI cable. Many other features are available for serious videographers.

Sony is renowned for its engineering expertise in high-tech electronics and its cameras include many impressive aspects, such as the following.

### BIONZ/X PROCESSOR

This engine allows for very fast burst modes, for Full HD video and for features such as Sweep Panorama that simplifies making a long photo of a vast scene. Other amenities include digital special-effect filters, auto-framing modes that crop JPEGs for better composition, D-Range Optimizer (DRO) and Auto HDR. The newer BIONZ X is three times faster and provides even better image quality.

### HYBRID AUTOFOCUS

Available with several recent cameras, this feature combines multi-point phase-detect AF and contrast-detect AF for precise focusing and effective tracking of fast-moving subjects tracking.

### ELECTRONIC VIEWFINDER (EVF)

Most of the larger cameras feature a built-in finder with ultra-high resolution while the α3000 offers lower resolution.

### LAYERED IMAGES

All of the cameras include Anti-Motion Blur and Hand-Held Twilight mode that fire a series of high-ISO JPEGs in a burst; they're composited into one image after discarding most of the digital noise.

### BUILT-IN WI-FI

All offer Wi-Fi, often with NFC, to transfer photos and videos to a smartphone or tablet or for remote control of the camera. Many apps are available either free or for a moderate fee.

### LENSES AND ACCESSORIES

Sony currently makes 15 E-mount lenses for the CSC models with APS-C-size sensor. (For the effective focal length, multiply by 1.5.) So far six FE lenses for the full-frame models are available. Another four are in development including a 24-240 mm f/3.5-6.3 FE zoom. Some—like the new Vario-Tessar T\* FE 16-35 mm f/4 ZA OSS—are premium-grade (Sony made) Carl Zeiss products. Many of the lenses include low-dispersion and/or aspherical elements. An increasing number are equipped with a Steady-shot stabilizer (OSS) and/or Smooth Autofocus Motor (SAM) or ultrasonic (SSM) AF. Two E-PZ models are available with power (motorized) zoom. Sigma, Tamron and Zeiss also make E-mount lenses. (The Zeiss Touit AF and Loxia manual-focus lenses are particularly impressive.) Sony also markets a wide range of accessories for their CSCs.





Photo courtesy of Vanessa Paxton, [vanessapaxton.com](http://vanessapaxton.com)

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## CANON EOS M

After an initial foray into the CSC market, the world's biggest camera maker hasn't been too active in North America but recently hinted that this will soon change. In the meantime, the EOS-M is still available at some retail outlets at surprisingly affordable prices, primarily in kits with one or two lenses. It is similar in features/technology to the very successful EOS Rebel T4i, but without the optical viewfinder.

SENSOR: **18-MP CMOS • ISO 100-12800 + EXTENDED SETTINGS** // LENS MOUNT: **CANON EF-M**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **3" 1-MILLION-DOT TOUCH-SCREEN LCD** // VIDEO: **MOV 1920 X 1080 @ 24 OR 30 FPS**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **108.6 X 66.5 X 32.3 MM • 298 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$450** WITH 18-55 MM F/3.5-5.6 LENS AND 90EX FLASH (STREET)

**CANON.CA**

## FUJIFILM X-E2

Boasting most of the larger X-Pro1's features, the X-E2 offers extras too: a larger LCD, new Dual Hybrid AF system, improved X-Trans II CMOS sensor, a super fast EXR II processor for 7 fps speed plus several extras including built-in Wi-Fi. The advanced manual focus mode, Digital Split Image, allows for focusing by lining up four stripes displayed in a central part of the live view image; focus peaking is also available.

SENSOR: **16.3-MP X-TRANS II APS-C • ISO 200-6400 + EXTENDED SETTINGS** // LENS MOUNT: **FUJI X**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **2.35-MILLION-DOT OLED EVF • 3" 1.04-MILLION-DOT LCD** // VIDEO: **MOV 1920 X 1080 @ 24 FPS**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **129 X 75 X 31 MM • 350 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$800** (STREET) BODY ONLY

**FUJIFILM.CA**

## FUJIFILM X-T1

The water/dust/freeze-resistant X-T1 with 8-fps drive speed and a slide-on flash unit, resembles a small DSLR with a hump that holds an unusual OLED viewfinder. Hold the camera vertically, and the information data display automatically rotates to portrait mode. The X-Trans CMOS II sensor is unique to Fujifilm, with its unique pixel/colour filter array; it also includes a phase-detect AF system.

SENSOR: **16.3-MP X-TRANS II • ISO 200-6400 + EXTENDED SETTINGS** // LENS MOUNT: **FUJI X**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **2.36-MILLION-DOT OLED • 2.8" 1.04-MILLION-DOT LCD**  
 VIDEO: **MOV 1920 X 1080 @ 24, 30 OR 60 FPS** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **129 X 75 X 31 MM • 390 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$1300** BODY ONLY (STREET)

**FUJIFILM.CA**

## LEICA T

If the M class is too rich, you can still buy into the Leica universe with the T, made from a block of aluminum. It's almost conventional with its dials but it also has a 3.7" touch-screen to appeal to a broad cross section of consumers. The Leica T uses an APS-C-size sensor and offers 5-fps drive, built-in Wi-Fi and Full HD Movie mode. Two Leica T-mount lenses are available and two others will be released soon. The T can also be used with M lenses, with an adapter.

SENSOR: **16.3-MP CMOS APS-C • ISO 100-12500** // LENS MOUNT: **LEICA T**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **OPTIONAL 2.36-MILLION-DOT EVF • 3.7" 1.3-MILLION-DOT TOUCH-SCREEN LCD**  
 VIDEO RECORDING: **MP4 1920 X 1080 @ 30P**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **134.6 X 68.6 X 33 MM • 384 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$2050** BODY ONLY (STREET)

**LEICA-CAMERA.COM**

## NIKON 1 V3

The third edition of the top gun Nikon 1 series is loaded with capabilities and offers DSLR-style controls, features and performance. This 18.4-MP model with fast EXPEED 4 processor is equipped with Wi-Fi and accepts an optional EVF. It uses both phase-detect and contrast-detect AF and is faster than a DSLR, with continuous drive to 20 fps with AF and 60 fps with focus locked. Surprisingly, this high-end camera uses Micro SD cards for storage.

SENSOR: 18.4-MP CMOS 1" • ISO 160-12800 // LENS MOUNT: NIKON 1

VIEWFINDER/LCD: OPTIONAL EVF • 3" 1.037-MILION-DOT TILT/TOUCH-SCREEN LCD

VIDEO: MOV 1920 X 1080 @ 30P OR 60P • 120 FPS MODE • UP TO 1200 FPS AT REDUCED FRAME SIZE

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: 111 X 65 X 33.2 MM • 324 G WITH BATTERY

\$1300 WITH 10-30 MM PD VR LENS, GRIP AND EVF (STREET)

NIKON.CA



## NIKON 1 J4

More affordable and smaller than the V3, and with fewer external controls, the J4 also has built-in Wi-Fi, hybrid AF and the very fast continuous drive options. Its Easy Panorama mode is an excellent addition to the J series. Like the V3, the J4 uses the smaller Micro SD cards for storage. The kit includes the new PD lens with motorized zooming that's ideal for video recording.

SENSOR: 18.4-MP CMOS 1" • ISO 160-12800 // LENS MOUNT: NIKON 1

VIEWFINDER/LCD: 3" 1.037-MILLION-DOT TOUCH-SCREEN LCD // VIDEO: MOV 1920 X 1080 @ 60I OR 30P

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: 100 X 60 X 28.5 MM • 232 G WITH BATTERY

\$600 WITH 10-30 MM PD VR LENS (STREET)

NIKON.CA



## OLYMPUS OM-D E-M1

A dust/splash/freeze-resistant magnesium-alloy body with Wi-Fi and 5-axis stabilizer, the E-M1 resembles a small DSLR with a faux pentaprism housing an oversized electronic viewfinder and many conventional controls. It uses a Dual AF system with phase-and contrast-detect AF and can shoot at 10-fps drive (6.5 fps with Continuous AF). The optical low-pass filter was omitted to provide maximum per-pixel resolution; any moiré pattern can be removed later, using software.

SENSOR: 16 MP LIVE MOS 4/3 • ISO 200-25600 // LENS MOUNT: M43

VIEWFINDER/LCD: 2.36-MILLION-DOT EVF • 3" 1.04-MILLION-DOT TILTING TOUCH-SCREEN LCD

VIDEO: MOV • FULL HD AT 60P // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: 130 X 93.5 X 63.1 MM • 497 G WITH BATTERY

\$1300 BODY ONLY (STREET)

OLYMPUSCANADA.COM



## OLYMPUS PEN E-PL7

This mid-level PEN camera incorporates Wi-Fi and offers extras such as a touch-screen LCD that tilts down (instead of up) for taking "selfies" and an 81-point Fast AF system. There are a lot of small improvements to this updated model: new Art filters, 3-axis stabilization and focus peaking in manual mode. Other amenities include a hot shoe for flash, built-in Wi-Fi, full HD Movie mode and 8-fps continuous drive (3.5 fps with AF).

SENSOR: 16-MP LIVE MOS 4/3 • ISO 100-25600 // LENS MOUNT: M43

VIEWFINDER/LCD: 1-MILLION-DOT TILTING, TOUCH-SCREEN LCD // VIDEO: MOV, FULL HD AT 30P

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: 115 X 67 X 38.4 MM • 357 G WITH BATTERY

\$700 WITH 14-42 MM II LENS AND LM1 FLASH (STREET)

OLYMPUSCANADA.COM





## PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-GH4

The large, fully loaded GH4, in a well-sealed magnesium-alloy body, competes with DSLRs with features such as 12-fps drive (7.5 fps with Continuous AF), an improved sensor, versatile 49-point AF system plus Wi-Fi with NFC. What's really impressive is the ability to record 4K videos (3840 x 2160 to 29.97p or 4096 x 2160 to 24p) to the memory card, in addition to Full HD movies.

SENSOR: **16-MP LIVE MOS 4/3 • ISO 100-25600** // LENS MOUNT: **M43**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **2.36-MILLION-DOT EVF • 3" 1.04-MILLION-DOT TOUCH-SCREEN LCD**  
 VIDEO: **AVCHD TO 1080/60P • 4K DCI OR UHD** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **132 X 93 X 84 MM • 560 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$1900** BODY ONLY (STREET)

PANASONIC.CA

## PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-GM5

The story of the GM5 is simple: take Panasonic's smallest G model, the GM1 and while refreshing it, pop in an EVF. Resolution and performance follow closely other G models, but the GM5 also has built-in Wi-Fi and a touch-screen LCD. It's fast at 5.8 fps—40 fps with the electronic shutter (5 fps with Continuous AF)—and includes Wi-Fi, Light Speed AF and a Silent mode. Instead of built-in flash, a small accessory unit is included.

SENSOR: **16-MP LIVE MOS 4/3 • ISO 100-25600** // LENS MOUNT: **M43**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **1.1-MILLION-DOT EVF • 3" 921,000-DOT TOUCH-SCREEN LCD**  
 VIDEO: **AVCHD TO 1080/60P** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **98.5 X 59.5 X 36.1 MM • 210 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$1000** WITH 12-32 MM MEGA OIS LENS AND FLASH (STREET)

PANASONIC.CA

## PENTAX Q-S1

With small-sensor cameras it is often difficult to get shallow depth of field as a creative technique. To fix that, the Q-S1, has a feature called Bokeh Control, which helps the photographer achieve this effect. The Q-S1 targets families but offers features such as built-in image stabilization using a gyro sensor, improved AF in photo mode, a Continuous AF option in Movie mode, Raw processing, HDR mode and a 5-fps continuous drive speed.

SENSOR: **12.4-MP BACKLIT CMOS 1/1.7"** // LENS MOUNT: **PENTAX Q**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **3" 460,000-DOT LCD** // VIDEO: **MOV TO 1920 X 1080 @ 30P**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **104 X 58 X 34 MM • 203 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$530** WITH 5-15 MM LENS (STREET)

RICOH-IMAGING.CA

## SAMSUNG NX1

The NX1 in a weather-resistant magnesium-alloy body bristles with advanced technology including a BSI sensor, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, Advanced Hybrid AF with 205 phase-detect plus 209 contrast-detect points, and the ability to output 4K video via HDMI to an external recorder. The quad-core processor enables it to shoot at 15 fps.

SENSOR: **28.2-MP BSI CMOS APS-C • ISO 100-2560 + EXTENDED ISO** // LENS MOUNT: **SAMSUNG NX**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **2.36-MILLION-DOT EVF • 3" 1.036-MILLION-DOT TILTING TOUCH-SCREEN LCD**  
 VIDEO: **MP4 AT 1080 • UHD AND 4K** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **138.5 X 102.3 X 65.8 MM • 550 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$1700** BODY ONLY (STREET)

SAMSUNG.CA





## SONY α5000

An affordable entry-level model, the α5000 is well equipped with features such as 25-point contrast-detect AF, Picture Effects, Auto HDR mode, Auto Object Framing and Wi-Fi with NFC. Its BIONZ X processor provides fine quality even at ISO 1600 and allows for the 3.5-fps Speed Priority continuous mode. The LCD utilizes a 180° tilting design that allows for positioning the screen to the front, making it convenient to shoot "selfies".

SENSOR: **20.1-MP CMOS • ISO 100-25600** // LENS MOUNT: **SONY E**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **NONE • 3" 461,000-DOT TILTING SCREEN**  
 VIDEO: **AVCHD 1080i @ UP TO 60P OR 1080 @ 24P • MP4 1440 X 1080 @ 30P**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **109.6 X 62.8 X 35.7 MM • 269 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$460** WITH 16-50 MM OSS PZ LENS (STREET)

**SONY.CA**



## SONY α6000

With the NEX nameplate gone, next-generation models like this one carry the Alpha designation. It features a fast BIONZ X processor for 11-fps continuous drive, Wi-Fi with NFC, and a fast hybrid AF system relying on 25 contrast-detection and 179 phase-detection points. Like the NEX-7, it has a built-in EVF. Sony is one the authors of the AVCHD video codec, so the α6000 saves movies in this format as well as in MP4 at a lower resolution.

SENSOR: **24.3 MPX CMOS • APS-C • ISO 100-25600** // LENS MOUNT: **SONY E**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **1.44 -MILLION-DOT OLED/3" 920K DOT TILTING LCD**  
 VIDEO: **AVCHD TO 1920X1080/60P, MP4 TO 1440X1080/30P**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **120 X 67 X 45 MM • 344 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$730** WITH 16-50 MM PZ OSS LENS (STREET)

**SONY.CA**



## SONY α7R

Boasting 36.4-MP resolution, this full-frame CSC model omits the low-pass filter for maximum resolution. It competes with DSLRs in feature set, including 14-bit Raw output, a fast 25-point AF system, ultra high-resolution EVF, built-in Wi-Fi with NFC and AVCHD Full HD movie mode. The camera can also send uncompressed clean screen video to an external device and can display photos on a 4K TV, both via HDMI connection.

SENSOR: **36.4-MP CMOS • FULL-FRAME • ISO 100-25600** // LENS MOUNT: **SONY FE**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **2.36-MILLION-DOT OLED • 3" TILTING 1.2-MILLION-DOT LCD**  
 VIDEO: **AVCHD TO 1920 X 1080 @ 60P** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **127 X 94 X 48 MM • 550 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$2200** BODY ONLY (STREET)

**SONY.CA**



## SONY α7S

Of particular interest to serious video shooters, this full-frame CSC model (with the huge 24 x 36 mm sensor, using a gapless lens design) offers only 12.2-MP resolution in order to provide huge pixels for significant image quality benefits especially at high ISO. It's loaded with capabilities including 5-fps drive, Wi-Fi with NFC, a fast 25-point contrast-detection AF system as well as many pro-grade options for video, XAVC video, and 4K video recording with clean output via HDMI to an optional external device.

SENSOR: **12.2-MP CMOS • FULL-FRAME • ISO 50-409,600** // LENS MOUNT: **SONY FE**  
 VIEWFINDER/LCD: **2.36-MILLION-DOT OLED • 3" TILTING 922,000-DOT LCD**  
 VIDEO: **AVCHD TO 1920 X 1080 @ 60P • MP4 TO 1440 X 1080 @ 30P • 4K**  
 DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **127 X 94 X 48 MM • 489 G WITH BATTERY**

**\$2500** BODY ONLY (STREET)

**SONY.CA**



# COMPACT-SYSTEM LENSES EXPAND THE POSSIBILITIES WITH SMALL BUT POWERFUL OPTICS

By David Tanaka

All of the compact-system (mirrorless) cameras are available in kits with one or two zooms, usually inexpensive models with small variable maximum apertures that cover the most often-used focal lengths. However, users who want more versatility can now choose from the numerous options offered by camera companies and third-party lens makers, in both single-focal-length models and zooms.

This section covers many suitable lenses, particularly the latest and the most interesting models. The basic specs are provided including details about image stabilizers; the Pentax Q and Olympus CSCs, and some of the Panasonic models, are already equipped with their own stabilizing systems.

If you already own lenses from another CSC, DSLR or 35-mm camera, you may be able to buy a device that will enable you to use them on a CSC of a different brand. In fact, all of the camera manufacturers market at least one adapter; as well, aftermarket accessories are available too, in highly rated brands such as Metabones and Novoflex.

## CANON EF-M 11-22 MM F/4-5.6 IS STM



A compact wide-angle 18-36 mm equivalent zoom for the EOS-M, this lens with metal exterior features an effective stabilizer with Dynamic IS for use when shooting movies, Super Spectra Coatings, fast, quiet AF with a stepping motor and full-time manual focus. When it's retracted, the length of the barrel reduces by 13 cm.

MOUNT: **EF-M** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **91-54°**

CONSTRUCTION: **9 ELEMENTS IN 12 GROUPS • 2 ASPHERIC AND 1 UD** // MIN. FOCUS: **15 CM**

STABILIZED: **YES** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **61 X 58 MM • 55-MM FILTER • 220 G**

**\$400 (STREET)**

**CANON.CA**

## FUJINON 50-140 MM F/2.8 R LM OIS WR



This fast 76-214 mm equivalent telephoto zoom with a constant maximum aperture of f/2.8 is dust/weather/freeze resistant to -10°C (like the 18-135 mm WR). It has a unique image stabilizer with a high-performance gyro sensor and "the world's first Triple Linear Motor" for high-speed, quiet AF. Nano-GI coating effectively minimizes flare.

MOUNT: **FUJI X** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **N/A** // CONSTRUCTION: **23 ELEMENTS IN 16 GROUPS • 5 ED, 1 SUPER ED**

MIN. FOCUS: **20 CM** // STABILIZED: **YES** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **82.9 X 175.9 MM • 72-MM FILTER • 995 G**

**\$1700 (STREET)**

**FUJIFILM.CA**

## FUJINON 56 MM F/1.2 R APD



The 84-mm equivalent focal length and the very wide maximum aperture should be ideal for portraiture and low-light use. This lens employs a quiet high-speed AF motor and incorporates an apodizing filter for smoother bokeh (defocused areas in the background) and a variable-ND filter. HT-EBC coatings on all elements minimize flare.

MOUNT: **FUJI X** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **31.7-11.6°**

CONSTRUCTION: **11 ELEMENTS IN 8 GROUPS • 1 ASPHERIC, 2 ED • ND AND APD FILTERS**

MIN. FOCUS: **7 CM** // STABILIZED: **NO**

DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **73.2 X 69.7 MM • 62-MM FILTER • 405 G**

**\$1600 (STREET)**

**FUJIFILM.CA**

## NIKON 1 NIKKOR AW 10 MM F/2.8

One of the submersible, shock-resistant lenses developed for the AW1, this 27-mm equivalent prime wide-angle features a wide maximum aperture for fast shutter speeds in low light. Benefits of this slim lens include a rugged metal exterior, a short minimum focus distance, useful especially underwater, and high-tech optical elements.

MOUNT: **NIKON CX** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **77°** // CONSTRUCTION: **6 ELEMENTS IN 5 GROUPS • 2 ASPHERIC**  
MIN. FOCUS: **20 CM** // STABILIZED: **NO** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **61 X 30 MM • 40.5-MM FILTER • 118 G**

**\$330** (STREET)

**NIKON.CA**



## NIKON 1 NIKKOR VR 70-300 MM F/4.5-5.6

Designed for sports and wildlife this 189-810 mm equivalent lens is quite compact and lightweight. It's equipped with a VR stabilizer, an essential feature to counteract camera shake at long focal lengths. An optional tripod-mounting collar (TR-N100, \$60) is also available. The ED glass and Nano Crystal coating should provide for fine image quality.

MOUNT: **NIKON CX** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **13-3°** // CONSTRUCTION: **16 ELEMENTS IN 10 GROUPS • 1 SUPER ED**  
MIN. FOCUS: **1 M** // STABILIZED: **YES** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **73 X 108 MM • 62-MM FILTER • 550 G**

**\$1100** (STREET)

**NIKON.CA**



## OLYMPUS M.ZUIKO DIGITAL ED 12-40 MM F/2.8

This premium-grade 18-60 mm zoom with a wide maximum aperture features a useful range. At the short end it's an ultra wide while the tele end is useful for group portraits. The metal barrel is splash/freeze/dust-proof and includes a high-speed Imager AF motor and many high-tech optical elements.

MOUNT: **M43** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **84-30°** // CONSTRUCTION: **14 ELEMENTS IN 9 GROUPS • 1 DSA, 2 ED, 1 HD, 2 HR**  
MIN. FOCUS: **20 CM** // STABILIZED: **NO** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **68.5 X 83.8 MM • 62-MM FILTER • 382 G**

**\$900** (STREET)

**OLYMPUSCANADA.COM**



## OLYMPUS M.ZUIKO ED DIGITAL 14-42 MM F/3.5-5.6 EZ

Featuring a surprising number of high-tech elements, this 28-84 mm equivalent lens is just 23 mm thick. It's collapsible; the barrel automatically extends or retracts when the camera is powered on and off. Designed with video in mind, it has a two-stage variable electronic zoom motor and near-silent focusing mechanism.

MOUNT: **M43** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **75-29°** // CONSTRUCTION: **8 ELEMENTS IN 7 GROUPS • 1 ED, 1 HR AND 1 SUPER HR**  
MIN. FOCUS: **20 CM (AT 14 MM)** // STABILIZED: **NO** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **61 X 22.8 MM • 36-MM FILTER • 93 G**

**\$350** (STREET)

**OLYMPUSCANADA.COM**



## PANASONIC LEICA DG SUMMILUX 15 MM F/1.7 ASPH

For a metal, wide-aperture 30-mm equivalent lens with stepping motor AF, this one is surprisingly compact. It's an ideal companion for the smallest Lumix G cameras. As the Leica name indicates, it's designed to be rugged and to offer very fine optical performance with aspherical elements and extra-low refractive index coating.

MOUNT: **M43** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **72°** // CONSTRUCTION: **9 ELEMENTS IN 7 GROUPS • 3 ASPHERIC**  
MIN. FOCUS: **20 CM** // STABILIZED: **NO** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **57.5 X 36 MM • 46-MM FILTER • 115 G**

**\$650** (STREET)

**PANASONIC.CA**







## PANASONIC LUMIX G VARIO 12-35 MM F/2.8 POWER OIS

A high-grade product, this rugged, splash-proof 24-70 mm equivalent zoom offers a wide, constant maximum aperture. Features include a circular-diaphragm aperture, a superb optical formula including unusual types of glass and nano surface coating. The Power OIS stabilizer is said to be "twice as effective" as conventional OIS.

MOUNT: **M43** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **84-34°** // CONSTRUCTION: **14 ELEMENTS IN 9 GROUPS • 4 ASPH, 1 UED AND 1 UHD**  
MIN. FOCUS: **25 CM** // STABILIZED: **YES** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **68 X 74 MM • 58-MM FILTER • 305 G**

**\$1000** (STREET)

**PANASONIC.CA**



## PENTAX Q6 TELEPHOTO ZOOM F/2.8

Suitable with any of the Q cameras, this retractable, super compact, lightweight wide-aperture lens is roughly equivalent to an 80-249 mm zoom, although the focal length depends on the camera's sensor size. It incorporates both ED and super-low dispersion glass as well as a Quick-Shift system for manual focus touch-ups in AF mode.

MOUNT: **PENTAX Q** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **DEPENDS ON SENSOR SIZE**  
CONSTRUCTION: **14 ELEMENTS IN 10 GROUPS • 2 ED, 1 SLD** // MIN. FOCUS: **100 CM**  
STABILIZED: **NO** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **56 X 50 MM • 40.5-MM FILTER • 90 G**

**\$300** (STREET)

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



## PENTAX Q8 WIDE ZOOM F/4

Like the Q cameras themselves, this ultra-wide to wide angle zoom lens (roughly 17.5-27 mm equivalent) is surprisingly small, but is full of advanced technology including a moulded-glass dual super aspherical element, two pieces of extra-low dispersion glass and one super-low-dispersion glass element. It offers a useful range plus a constant f/4 maximum aperture.

MOUNT: **PENTAX Q** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **DEPENDS ON SENSOR SIZE**  
CONSTRUCTION: **10 ELEMENTS IN 8 GROUPS • 1 DSA ASPH AND 2 ED**  
MIN. FOCUS: **25 CM** // STABILIZED: **NO** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **54 X 38 MM • 49-MM FILTER • 75 G**

**\$500** (STREET)

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



## SIGMA ART 19 MM F/2.8 DN

A companion to the 30-mm f/2.8 and 60-mm f/2.8 DN lenses, this one is also available in mounts for Sony (as a 28-mm equivalent) and Micro Four Thirds (as a 38-mm equivalent). Three moulded-glass aspherical elements, internal focusing and super multi-layer coating provide fine quality. A linear motor provides fast, quiet AF.

MOUNT: **SONY E AND M43** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **59.3° (M43) OR 73.5° (SONY)**  
CONSTRUCTION: **8 ELEMENTS IN 6 GROUPS • 3 ASPH**  
MIN. FOCUS: **20 CM** // STABILIZED: **NO** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **61 X 45.7 MM • 46-MM FILTER • 160 G**

**\$230** (STREET)

**SIGMACANADA.CA**

## SIGMA ART 60 MM F/2.8 DN

Useful for many applications requiring a shallow depth of field, including portraiture, this Art series lens with a circular diaphragm aperture employs a new linear AF motor for quiet focusing which is ideal when shooting video. With Special Low Dispersion and moulded-glass aspherical elements, this lens minimizes chromatic aberrations for sharp images.

MOUNT: **SONY E AND M43** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **20.4° (M43) OR 26.6° (SONY)**  
CONSTRUCTION: **8 ELEMENTS IN 6 GROUPS, 1 ASPH AND 1 SLD** // MIN. FOCUS: **20 CM** // STABILIZED: **NO**  
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **61 X 55.5 MM • 46 MM FILTER • 190 G**

**\$229** (STREET)

**SIGMACANADA.CA**



## SONY ZEISS VARIO-TESSAR T\* E 16-70 MM F4 ZA OSS

Featuring an OSS stabilizer, rugged metal barrel, wide constant maximum aperture and Zeiss-specified optical elements, this zoom also features the Zeiss T\* multi-layer coatings for great flare resistance. It's a fine choice as a premium walk-about lens for the E-mount Sony cameras.

MOUNT: **SONY E** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **83-23°** // CONSTRUCTION: **16 ELEMENTS IN 12 GROUPS • 4 ASPH**  
MIN. FOCUS: **35 CM** // STABILIZED: **YES** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **66.6 X 75 MM • 55-MM FILTER • 308 G**

\$999 (STREET)

SONY.CA



## SONY ZEISS VARIO-TESSAR T\* FE 16-35 MM F4 ZA OSS

Designed for the full-frame α7 series but suitable for the other Alpha cameras, this dust/moisture-resistant lens with stabilizer, internal focus and eight large, high-tech elements plus Zeiss T\* coating promises superlative performance. Its nearly silent autofocus and aperture operation are ideal in Movie mode.

MOUNT: **SONY FE (INCLUDES E)** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **107-63° (FE) OR 83-44° (E)**  
CONSTRUCTION: **12 ELEMENTS IN 10 GROUPS • 5 ASPH, 3 ED** // MIN. FOCUS: **28 CM**  
STABILIZED: **YES** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **78 X 98 MM • 72-MM FILTER • 520 G**

\$1600 (STREET)

SONY.CA



## VOIGTLANDER 10.5 MM F/0.95 NOKTON

To be available in 2015, this 21-mm equivalent Micro Four Thirds lens with metal barrel from Cosina will be ideal for low-light photography like the other two f/0.95 models. The only connection to the camera is mechanical so it must be used with manual focus and manual exposure.

MOUNT: **M43**  
ANGLE OF VIEW: **93°**  
CONSTRUCTION: **13 ELEMENTS IN 10 GROUPS • 1 OR MORE ASPH**  
MIN. FOCUS: **17 CM**  
STABILIZED: **NO**  
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **77 X 82.4 MM • 72-MM FILTER • 586 G**

PRICE TBA

JCLSALESGROUP.COM



## ZEISS TOUIT MAKRO-PLANAR 50 MM F/2.8

Boasting full 1x magnification, this premium-grade, metal 75-mm equivalent lens for Sony and Fujifilm X CSCs is also ideal as a portrait lens. It employs a floating element design, two aspherical elements and two pieces of low-dispersion glass. The circular-diaphragm aperture should produce very pleasing bokeh.

MOUNT: **SONY E AND FUJIFILM X** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **107-63° (FE) OR 83-44° (E)**  
CONSTRUCTION: **14 ELEMENTS IN 11 GROUPS • 2 ASPH, 2 PARTIAL AD** // MIN. FOCUS: **15.3 CM**  
STABILIZED: **NO** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **65 X 104 MM • 52-MM FILTER • 290 G**

\$1100 (STREET)

ZEISS.CA



## ZEISS LOXIA 50 MM F/2

Like the 35-mm f/2 Loxia model, this compact high-grade metal, weather-resistant 50-mm lens with T\* coatings for full-frame Sony CSCs is suitable for the other Sony models too. Purists will appreciate the compact manual focus and the mechanical aperture ring; the latter has a click-free mode for silent operation in Movie mode.

MOUNT: **SONY E** // ANGLE OF VIEW: **46.7°** // CONSTRUCTION: **6 ELEMENTS IN 4 GROUPS • PLANAR DESIGN**  
MIN. FOCUS: **37 CM** // STABILIZED: **NO** // DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: **59 X 66 MM • 52-MM FILTER • 320 G**

\$1100 (STREET)

ZEISS.CA



# FIXED-LENS DIGITAL CAMERAS

## SOPHISTICATION MINUS THE BULK

By Chad Sapieha

**Superzoom cameras, with lenses that extend to 500+mm equivalent and featuring an image stabilizer, are a good choice for distant action**

Smartphones have become the de facto picture-taking option for many people, but few can come close to matching the functionality or quality produced by dedicated cameras.

Such models typically offer superior optical zoom lenses, larger image sensors for better quality, much greater versatility and more powerful flashes. Granted, the market in inexpensive point-and-shoots has slowed dramatically but the other types of cameras with built-in lens remain very popular.

Superzoom cameras, with lenses that extend to 500+mm equivalent and featuring an image stabilizer, are a good choice for distant action. Wildlife enthusiasts and amateur sports photographers will find them much more practical, compact and affordable than DSLR or even the mirrorless CSC systems. Some, but not all, are equipped with an electronic viewfinder (EVF).

If your primary concern is finding the perfect balance between portability and superb quality, an enthusiast-grade camera is for you. Typically, they offer DSLR-style features, superb lenses (nearly always with an image

stabilizer) many external controls, ruggedness and a gorgeous style. These are the sort of compact cameras that even professional photographers carry when they're out and about and not shooting assignments.

Then there's the relatively new but quickly growing category of hands-free POV (point-of-view) or action cameras for people who want to capture their experiences without interrupting the action. Ideal for everything from snowmobiling and snorkelling to mountain biking and motor-sports racing, these cameras typically mount on a helmet or handlebars. The POV models are heavily automated and offer little in the way of user-selectable features, but can be a smart way to record your adventures. Our coverage is of the latest models, including some that are not yet available but will be soon.

Though not covered in the listings, it's worth noting that Sony makes a unique product: the new 20-MP Cyber-shot QX-1, which is a large (APS-C size) sensor with a processor and a lens mount. Attach it to a smartphone and add any E-mount lens and you can use the phone as the camera body/controller. There's also a DSC-QX30 module with a small 20.4-MP sensor and a processor plus a built-in 24-750 mm equivalent zoom that can be used for the same purpose.

### SUPERZOOM CAMERAS

#### CANON POWERSHOT SX60 HS



This powerful superzoom is equipped with a lens that covers a 21-1365 mm equivalent range. Its 16.1-MP CMOS sensor provides excellent low-light capture capability and Full HD video. Speedy AF works in tandem with 6.4-fps burst shooting in full resolution. There's a vari-angle 3" LCD and also a high-resolution EVF. Wi-Fi with NFC makes it easy to move photos from your camera to smart devices.

**\$580** (STREET)

**CANON.CA**

#### FUJIFILM FINEPIX S9400W



This traditional 16.2-MP camera with 3" LCD and an EVF, sports a stabilized 24-1200 mm f/2.9-6.5 equivalent lens with a Super Macro option. The CMOS sensor provides fine high-ISO quality and captures nice Full HD videos. It is a fast, full-featured camera with high-speed AF and a 10-fps drive at full resolution. Built-in Wi-Fi makes transferring files to computers and smart devices a snap.

**\$330** (STREET)

**FUJIFILM.CA**

#### FUJIFILM FINEPIX S1



Combining impressive zoom capabilities—thanks to a 24-1200 mm equivalent lens with 5-axis stabilizer—in a weather-resistant, sealed body design, this DSLR-like camera can safely withstand a rainstorm. Its 16.4-MP sensor captures stills at a rate of up to 10 fps at full resolution with continuous AF or Full HD video. It's also equipped with a 3" vari-angle LCD and a high-resolution EVF.

**\$439** (STREET)

**FUJIFILM.CA**



## NIKON COOLPIX P600

Equipped with a 24-1440 mm equivalent Nikkor glass lens, a vari-angle 3" LCD and an EVF, this camera has terrific reach. Its 16.1-MP sensor captures up to seven shots at 7 fps or Full HD video. Multi-mode AF automatically finds and tracks subjects. Built-in Wi-Fi means you can share photos and remotely control this camera from a smartphone or tablet.

\$450 (STREET)

NIKON.CA

## OLYMPUS STYLUS SP-100

This camera's high-resolution EVF with built-in dot-sight—a first for a camera, according to Olympus—is designed to help track quick-moving targets. There is also a wealth of features, including Full HD video and a 3" LCD. Its 24-1200 mm equivalent lens provides good reach, while the 16-MP CMOS sensor delivers class-standard resolution.

\$370 (STREET)

OLYMPUSCANADA.COM

## PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-FZ70

With a lens spanning the equivalent of 20-1200 mm and a 3" LCD plus EVF, the full-featured FZ70 established a new benchmark for zoom range upon its release. This camera with a tilting LCD and Light Speed AF can shoot 16.1-MP JPEGs at 9 fps (5 fps with continuous AF) and also offers Full HD video with Dolby stereo, zooming mics, and effective wind noise reduction for the audio.

\$380 (STREET)

PANASONIC.CA

## PENTAX XG-1

Featuring many DSLR-type capabilities and controls, this 16-MP camera with built-in stabilized 24-1248 mm equivalent zoom, 3" LCD and EVF, allows for shooting full-resolution JPEGs at 9 fps and movies at up to Full HD. The contrast-detect AF system and flash are both very versatile. In spite of the 52x zoom it's quite compact and lightweight (567 g).

\$430 (STREET)

RICOH-IMAGING.CA

## SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-HX400

This 20.4-MP camera is equipped with a Carl Zeiss 24-1200 mm equivalent lens and a sophisticated SteadyShot stabilizer. It has a tilting 3" touch-screen LCD, an EVF, Wi-Fi and a GPS receiver. Numerous features include a 10-fps drive, 360° Intelligent Sweep Panorama mode and Full HD video. It can also output 4K-quality still images to a 4K TV via an HDMI cable.

\$500 (STREET)

SONY.CA

## ENTHUSIAST-GRADE CAMERAS

### CANON POWERSHOT G7 X

Smaller than other G-series cameras, this 20.2-MP model with 1" sensor and fast 24-110 mm equivalent f/1.8-2.8 lens, employs a high-speed AF system with 31 detection points. There's no viewfinder, but additional features include a 3" tilting touch-screen LCD, DIGIC 6 engine with 14-bit processing, Full HD video, 6.5-fps drive and Wi-Fi with NFC.

\$750 (STREET)

CANON.CA

### CANON POWERSHOT G1 X MARK II

With a large (1.5") 12.8-MP sensor, high-grade 24-120 mm f/2.3-3.9 lens with new Intelligent IS and 14-bit DIGIC 6 processor, Canon's flagship is fast at 5.2 fps and also shoots Full HD video. It's equipped with a tilting 3" touch-screen LCD, 31-point high-speed AF system, a wealth of features and controls including dual control rings, plus Wi-Fi with NFC.

\$769 (STREET)

CANON.CA





## FUJIFILM X30

This is a premium-grade magnesium-alloy camera with a high-grade 28-112 mm equivalent f/2-2.8 lens, a mechanical zoom ring and a control ring for setting important functions. It's equipped with an ultra high-resolution EVF, a tilting 3" LCD and a very fast Hybrid AF system. Images are made using a 12-MP 2/3" X-Trans CMOS II sensor and EXR Processor II.

\$650 (STREET)

FUJIFILM.CA

## FUJIFILM X100T

Smart retro styling makes Fujifilm's top-of-the-line compact particularly handsome but there's more to it than just sharp looks. Extensive manual controls include an aperture ring, ISO dial and seven customizable function buttons. There's an optical/electronic viewfinder, a 3" LCD Intelligent Hybrid AF system and a high-grade 35-mm f/2 lens. The large 16.3-MP (APS-C) X-Trans CMOS II size sensor captures stills at up to 6 fps as well as Full HD video.

\$1400 (STREET)

FUJIFILM.CA



## NIKON COOLPIX A

This high-end camera is the smallest to employ a large DX (APS-C) 16.2-MP CMOS sensor and omits the low-pass filter. It also features an excellent 28-mm equivalent f/2.8 lens, 3" LCD, 4-fps drive speed and Full HD Movie mode. Simple, modern styling with some traditional controls including a manual focus ring are designed for efficiency. Wi-Fi is available with an optional accessory.

\$600 (STREET)

NIKON.CA



## NIKON COOLPIX P7800

Equipped with a 28-200 mm f/2-4 equivalent lens, DSLR-style controls and hot shoe for external flash, this 12.2-MP model features an EVF and a 3" vari-angle LCD. Other amenities include 8-fps drive, Full HD Movie mode and the features you'd expect in a DSLR. Add the optional WU 1a adapter to gain Wi-Fi connectivity to smart devices.

\$530 (STREET)

NIKON.CA



## OLYMPUS STYLUS 1

This versatile enthusiast camera is packed with appealing features, including a retractable 28-300 mm equivalent f/2.8 zoom lens with a hybrid control ring, a high-resolution EVF and a 3" tilting touch-screen LCD. Other amenities include a 7-fps drive mode, Full HD Movie mode, compatibility with wireless off-camera flash and built-in Wi-Fi.

\$700 (STREET)

OLYMPUSCANADA.COM



## OLYMPUS STYLUS SH-1

The 16-MP PEN-like SH-1 is a stylishly retro compact complete with synthetic leather finishing and brushed-aluminum accents with a surprisingly affordable price tag. It has a 25-600 mm equivalent lens with a 5-axis stabilizer for very effective camera shake compensation, a 3" touch-screen LCD, 11.5-fps drive speed, Full HD Movie mode, built-in Wi-Fi and a wealth of functions and options.

\$400 (STREET)

OLYMPUSCANADA.COM



## PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-FZ1000

This 20.1-MP camera with Leica DC 25-400 mm equivalent f/2.8-4 lens and 5-axis stabilizer, targets serious shooters with its 1" sensor, ultra high-resolution EVF, articulated 3" LCD, ultra high-speed AF and numerous features. The Venus Engine with Multi-Process NR provides fine high-ISO quality and a 12-ps drive speed. The FZ1000 is also the world's first compact camera that can record 4K video onto its memory card.

\$950 (STREET)

PANASONIC.CA



## PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-LX100

This 12.8-MP camera boasts a large sensor with an effective area that's 1.6x larger than the more common 1" size, a very fast but tiny Leica DC 24-75 mm equivalent f/1.7-2.8 lens, ultra high-resolution EVF and 3" LCD. It can also shoot video at 4K in addition to 1080p. It's very fast at 11 fps (6.5 fps with Tracking AF) and includes Wi-Fi with NFC.

\$900 (STREET)

PANASONIC.CA



## SAMSUNG GALAXY SF2

This unusual 16-MP camera with 23-483 mm equivalent f/2.8-9.5 lens and 4.8" LCD strives to combine the best aspects of smartphones and dedicated compact cameras. It employs an Android 4.3 operating system and associated apps, and offers built-in Wi-Fi combined with the latest options for sharing images and video with other devices, including Auto Upload, which automatically transfers everything you capture to cloud storage.

\$500 (STREET)

SAMSUNG.CA



## SIGMA DP1 QUATTRO

Employing a Foveon X3 direct image sensor that captures the red, green and blue spectrums vertically for excellent colour, this 29-MP chip also enables the camera to provide 39-MP equivalent resolution. It's equipped with a fast new TRUE III image processor for 3.5-fps drive, a 3" LCD, a built-in 19-mm (28-mm equivalent) f/2.8 lens and nine-point contrast-detect AF with a face-detection option.

\$1200 (STREET)

SIGMACANADA.CA



## SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-RX100 III

An addition to Sony's 20.2-MP line with large 1" sensor, version III boasts a high-grade Zeiss T\* 24-70 mm equivalent f/1.8-2.8 lens, a high-resolution pop-up EVF and 3" LCD that can flip up to 180° for taking selfies. Other advantages include Wi-Fi with NFC and apps, the superior XAVC S video format, a "3x faster" BIONZ X processor, 10-fps drive speed, improved autofocus and zebra striping (exposure warning).

\$900 (STREET)

SONY.CA



## SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-RX10

Boasting a Carl Zeiss 24-200 mm f/2.8 lens with Supersonic AF, this 20.2-MP magnesium-alloy model with 1" sensor features an OLED viewfinder and tilting 3" LCD. Other benefits include Wi-Fi with NFC, high-speed AF with new options, 10-fps drive speed plus a headphone and mic jack for use with Full HD video.

\$1100 (STREET)

SONY.CA







## POV ACTION CAMS

### CONTOUR ROAM3

This waterproof (to 10 m) low-profile POV cam has a 170° lens with a 270° rotating lens assembly equipped with laser alignment. It records HD video at 30 fps and can capture 5-MP stills in Quick Photo Mode; there's also a locking instant-on record switch. Two mounts are included in the kit. The rechargeable battery lasts up to 3.5 hours.

**\$270** (STREET)

**MICASPORT.COM**



### ION AIR PRO 3 WI-FI

Weighing only 142 g and waterproof to 15 m, this model captures Full HD video or 12-MP stills at 30 fps. Its 160° field-of-view lens resists fogging up, and the rechargeable battery lasts up to 2.5 hours. Built-in Wi-Fi with the included PODZ allows for real time Shoot/Share capability with live upload to social-media sites. Two mounts are included.

**\$400** (LIST)

**GENTEC-INTL.COM**



### GOPRO HERO4 BLACK

The first POV camera to offer 4K video recording at 30 fps, the Black model can also shoot Full HD or 12-MP stills at 30 fps. Waterproof to 40 m, its glass lens has three settings: ultra-wide, medium and narrow. Bluetooth and "50% faster Wi-Fi" are also included. The camera ships with quick-release buckles and two mounts; many others are available as accessories.

**\$549** (STREET)

**GOPRO.COM**



### RICOH WG-M1

This 14-MP action cam is submersible to 10 m, shockproof and freeze-proof to -10 °C. It's equipped with a super-wide aspherical 160° lens (137° in Movie mode), a 1.5" LCD, and Wi-Fi. The M1 can shoot JPEGs at 10 fps or Full HD videos. A large control button makes operation convenient. An adhesive mount and a karabiner-equipped strap are included.

**\$320** (STREET)

**RICOH-IMAGING.CA**



### SONY ACTION CAM MINI HDR-AZ1

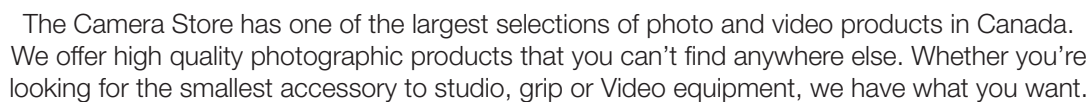
This waterproof (to 16' with the included housing) POV camera with Active SteadyShot stabilizer is equipped with an 11.9-MP image sensor, an ultra-wide 170° Carl Zeiss lens and a stereo mic. It can shoot stills at 8 fps and Full HD video as well as 120 fps slow-motion movies. The kit includes an adhesive mount and tripod adapter; other accessories are available.

**\$300** (LIST)

**SONY.CA**

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**Check out PhotoRepublik products at [thecamerastore.com](http://thecamerastore.com)**

# IMAGING SOFTWARE

## YOUR MOST POWERFUL IMAGE-EDITING TOOLS

By David Tanaka

Just as in the past, conventional software for categorizing and modifying images remains available, but the environment is changing. For example, when you upload your smartphone photos to the cloud, you can bypass the home computer entirely. That might require imaging software, but in the smart device instead. Of course, enthusiast photography consists of many aspects other than posting to social media, such as image cataloguing, colour and tonal correction, extreme processing and high-quality printing, for example. That makes a personal computer loaded with the appropriate software tools still the best solution.

Nevertheless, as a category, image-editing software is experiencing some shudders that suggest possible new directions for photo-processing workflow. Apple has shuttered its pioneering workflow suite, Aperture, perhaps temporarily. For now, it's focusing instead on a new product called Photos that's included as a part of OSX and is tight with iCloud's photo sharing.

Adobe ended a big chunk of its retail operation when it killed the Photoshop Creative Suite back in 2013. That move is still causing some confusion. You can no longer buy a DVD with a licensed copy of Photoshop CS for \$800 or \$900, but a more versatile/sophisticated version is available as a Creative Cloud module that you subscribe to for a monthly fee.

Imaging software is relatively mature, and the products are stable and reliable. All have many similar tools that cover the basic adjustments while each offers useful tools you can't get anywhere else. Of course, there are also differences in user interface and in the underlying logic of menu systems and tool behaviour. Most packages offer free trial periods so you can test several before settling on one that best suits your own work habits

### PHOTO EDITING

#### ACDSEE PRO 8

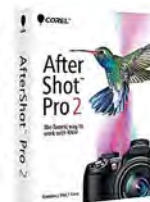


The latest release of ACDSee Pro brings a few new features. Pixel Targeting allows you to tightly focus colour and tonal adjustments. A new 1-Step EQ harnesses ACD's patented LCE process to boost darks and cut highlights. Version 8 also includes improvements to image management: Smart Indexer updates your catalogues as a background operation. ACDSee came early to the Raw workflow party, and this new release supports recently introduced camera models.

\$200

ACDSEE.COM

#### AFTERSHOT PRO 2



Version 2 of AfterShot Pro uses a 64-bit processing engine, which improves performance by about 30 percent compared to Version 1, says Corel. It also allows the software to handle larger images (up to 250 megapixels). There are new tools for HDR processing, automatic red-eye removal and local contrast adjustment, plus a noise-reduction engine from Athentech. AfterShot Pro 2 remains one of the few image-editing packages available for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux.

\$60

COREL.COM

#### APPLE PHOTOS AND ICLOUD



Apple is trying to wean us from the personal computer-bound "digital darkroom" model of image processing that's ruled digital photography from the beginning. iCloud Photo Stream allows you to post images to iCloud with one device and have immediate access to the images from all your other devices associated with your iCloud account. Photos, a new photographic tool in the latest version of OS X, replaces iPhoto and incorporates some of the image workflow powers of Aperture.

FREE OR SUBSCRIPTION BASED

APPLE.CA



## CAPTURE ONE PRO 8

Capture One Pro 8 builds on the previous version's broad feature set, which includes unique capabilities like the Tethered Capture mode that works with advanced Canon, Nikon or Sony SLRs. Enhancements to Version 8 include Live View capture in tethered mode, a new organizing module called Catalogs, layer-based cloning and healing tools and a new film grain simulator. Phase One says Version 8 is also faster than the previous version.

\$300

PHASEONE.COM



## DXO OPTICS PRO 10

Primarily designed for Raw-file modification but also useful with JPEGs, Optics Pro offers a vast range of benefits, including Lens Modules to optimize image quality and options for highlight/shadow recovery. Both Essential and Elite v.10 support all cameras' Raw formats and offer increase speed, while Elite provides certain enthusiast/pro features such as PRIME de-noising, the Clear View tool (to reduce the effects of haze), colour profiling and moiré pattern removal.

\$169 STANDARD AND \$299 ELITE

DAYMEN.CA



## DXO VIEWPOINT 2

This is DXO's specialist software with many tools for correcting distortion and perspective. For example, in photos made with an ultra-wide lens, it helps make objects near the frame edges look more natural (volume deformation correction). ViewPoint can also fix shots taken with any lens where there is keystone distortion, uneven horizon lines, etc. (perspective correction).

\$80

DAYMEN.CA



## LIGHTROOM 5

You can still buy Lightroom 5 in a retail box for around \$160 or get it as part of the Photoshop CC subscription (US\$9.99/month). The biggest news with LR 5 has been the addition of Lightroom Mobile (so far available only for iPad and iPhone). To use LR Mobile, you still need to have LR5 on your computer, plus a subscription to Adobe's cloud-storage service. With all the pieces in place you create Smart Previews of images in LR5, which are uploaded to the cloud. These you can then edit on your iOS device using LR Mobile. Smart Previews are small stand-ins that make it feasible to establish a responsive workflow on an iPad, even if your originals are big 36-MP Raw files. Adjustments are sync'd back to the original files catalogued in LR5.

\$160 OR INCLUDED IN PHOTOSHOP CC

ADOBE.CA



## PAINT SHOP PRO X7 ULTIMATE

With its long-development history, PaintShop Pro is a stable and robust image editor. Enhancements to Version 7 include the ability to read XMP metadata files, new smart edge and magic fill tools and a number of interface enhancements. The Ultimate version includes skin-enhancement tools and Athentech's Perfectly Clear one-touch image correction tools.

\$100

COREL.COM





## PERFECT PHOTO SUITE 9

This suite includes nine modules tied together in a unified interface. There are some underlying tool sets to bind them together, including quick mask tools, a variety of brushes (including a chisel tool for refining masks) and gradient tools. The nine modules cover basic adjustments of tone, contrast and colour collection as well as specialist processes for resizing, portrait touch-ups, etc.

\$130

ONONESOFTWARE.COM



## PHOTOSHOP CREATIVE CLOUD

The current Photoshop subscription is quite affordable and includes Photoshop CC (2014), Lightroom 5, Lightroom Mobile and some modules that come with the Creative Cloud subscription. Among the enhancements to the incredibly versatile PS CC are Content Aware Fill, Patch and Move (allows more realistic fixes to areas with tonal or colour gradients), new effects in the Blur Gallery (blur along a path, spin blur) and Focus Mask.

US \$9.99 PER MONTH

ADOBE.CA



## PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 13

Adobe revamps Photoshop Elements annually, the latest being Version 13. In it we find three new Guided Edits devoted to black and white conversions and new Compose module for Photomerge—a tool that allows you to add elements from one photo to another. The Basic module, which originally offered 10 easy-to-use adjustment tools, has been expanded and now includes 50 tools. The Organizer gains a slideshow creation feature. Performance-wise, Photoshop Elements is now fully 64-bit.

\$130

ADOBE.CA



## PHOTOZOOM PRO6

When you need to make a large megapixel image from a small megapixel one, you rely on interpolation. There are many interpolation algorithms and each works best on certain kinds of images. PhotoZoom Pro is versatile because it includes several, so you can apply the one that works best on the image you're working on at the time. Version 6 is available as a standalone unit that also works as a plug-in for Adobe Photoshop and Corel Paint Shop Pro.

\$200

BENVISTA.COM



## PRINTAO 8

Do you use an Epson printer? Do you use a Mac? Say "yes" to both and you are a potential PrinTao 8 customer. Sure, this is for a limited audience, but if you fit the profile and are having trouble getting your Epson and Mac to play nicely together, Printao 8 is worth a look.

\$99 AND UP (PRICE VARIES WITH PRINTER MODEL)

PRINTAO8.COM

## SILKYPPIX DEVELOPER STUDIO PRO 6

This Raw converter isn't well known but there's a good chance that you may already have the software. Ichikawa Soft Laboratory has been supplying a light version to several camera makers but the latest full version is Developer Studio Pro 6. Improvements include an improved noise-reduction engine and the ability to adjust dark and light areas independently.

\$300

ISL.CO.JP/SILKYPPIX/ENGLISH



## TOPAZ COMPLETE COLLECTION

The term complete means that you get all 15 of Topaz Labs' plug-in tools. They are a diverse lot, focusing on a specific problem or effect—black-and-white conversion, noise reduction, local contrast enhancement, special effects, etc. The packages work with most image editors, including Adobe, Corel and Apple products. There are exceptions, however. For example, ReMask doesn't work with Lightroom because it works with layers and transparency, which LR does not offer.

\$430

TOPAZLABS.COM



## VIDEO EDITING

### SONY MOVIE STUDIO 13 SUITE

This suite includes a number of modules: Movie Studio Platinum (video editing), DVD Architect Studio (DVD authoring) as well as Sound Forge Audio Studio and Acid Music Studio (music composition and sound editing) plus a number of third-party effects plug-ins.

\$140

SONYCREATIVESOFTWARE.COM



## PREMIERE ELEMENTS 13

This latest update to Adobe's consumer-focused image editor includes a few interesting features. Shake Stabilizer is a software-based image stabilizer, designed to help take the jerkiness out of video captured by smartphones and action cameras. PRE 13 takes a new approach to clip trimming: With Favorite Moments you to mark the segments you want to keep, rather than parts you want to cut. Video Story is a theme-based planning tool that sets up typical chapters that you would want to include in various types of movie projects (birthday, wedding, etc.).

\$130

ADOBE.CA



## VIDEO STUDIO ULTIMATE X7

FastFlick, new in this latest version of Video Studio provides a three-step method of making and sharing a movie. It is now a 64-bit application, and comes with a stack of 64-bit special effects as well as performance enhancements. Video Studio Ultimate supports 4K video and also lets you up-res HD video to 4K.

\$100

COREL.COM





# PHOTO APPS

## AFFORDABLE OPTIONS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

By David Giral

With the explosion of the smartphones and tablets in the last few years, it has never been so easy to take pictures, enhance them and share them directly from your smart device. This process has been improving quickly, thanks to the release of new apps. While applications for the Apple iPhone and iPad (with the iOS operating system) dominate in terms of the number available for photography, app developers are also expanding their offerings for the Android devices.

Most apps, including the very well-known Instagram and Snapseed, are geared towards making smartphone pictures more visually appealing, and making it easier to share them with friends. That's understandable, but you can also find apps that will increase the productivity of photographers using conventional cameras such as DSLRs.

We've selected some of our favourite apps, providing brief descriptions and a link to websites where you can find additional information. With a bit of online research, you can decide which app in any category is likely to be your own favourite. Prices vary depending on the platform and can change very quickly so we will not provide that information; typically however, apps are priced at under \$10.

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### THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S EPHEMERIS (ANDROID/IOS)

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A useful app for planning outdoor shoots (especially in landscape photography) in natural light, Ephemeris is a map-centric sun and moon location calculator. It can display how the light will fall on any location, at any time of day or night.)

[PHOTOEPHEMERIS.COM](http://PHOTOEPHEMERIS.COM)

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### SUN SURVEYOR (ANDROID/IOS)

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Practical for scouting locations, the Surveyor predicts sun and moon positions; it can display a 3D compass, map view, augmented reality view and ephemeris details (the position of astronomical objects in the sky).

[SUNSURVEYOR.COM](http://SUNSURVEYOR.COM)

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### DSLR.BOT (IOS ONLY)

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This app allows you to control your DSLR from an iPhone or iPad using an infrared transmitter. It has a geo-tagging feature and five modes: Shoot, Long Exposure, Time-Lapse, HDR bracketing and movie. While it's suitable for use Canon, Nikon, Pentax and Sony NEX cameras, this app can provide all five modes when you use an EOS DSLR.

[DSLRBOT.COM](http://DSLRBOT.COM)

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### DSLR CONTROLLER (ANDROID ONLY)

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Intended for EOS owners only, this app lets you control a Canon DSLR from a smart device after connecting it to the camera with a USB cable. It offers remote live view on your device's screen, control of most common settings (capture, focus and zoom control, image and video review, time-lapse, HDR/AEB, focus bracketing) and much more.

[DSLRCONTROLLER.COM](http://DSLRCONTROLLER.COM)

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### CAMERA BAG 2 (IOS ONLY)

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Featuring a high-resolution analogue engine, this app allows you to customize pictures taken with your iPhone and keep their quality. It includes dozens of adjustable photo styles (with new ones added regularly in the Online Style Library) and also allows you to save customized looks and share the final result on social media.

[NEVERCENTER.COM/CAMERABAG/MOBILE/](http://NEVERCENTER.COM/CAMERABAG/MOBILE/)

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## FORMATT PHOTO (iOS ONLY)

Formatt Photo (iOS only) Produced by the makers of Hitech filters, this app allows you to use filters on photos made with an iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch. It's also very useful as a preview of the effect that specific types of filters can produce in conventional photography. Use the smart device's photo as guidance to decide which type of glass filter to use on your "serious" camera before taking a photo of the same scene.

FILTERSAPP.COM



## ADOBE PHOTOSHOP TOUCH (ANDROID/IOS)

Although it is one of the most expensive apps in this list, Touch is a must-have for photographers who want to edit on the go. It includes the core features of Photoshop, with layers, flexible selection tools, filter brushes and much more. As with all apps, image file size is limited; with Touch, you can work on JPEGs with up to 12-MP resolution.

ADOBE.CA



## DOFMASTER (ANDROID/IOS)

This online calculator app can provide the hyperfocal distance (focusing distance for maximum range of acceptable sharp focus at any aperture), the near-focus limit, far-focus limit and depth of field based on the camera and lens you are using. This is very useful for landscape, architecture and even macro photography when you want extensive, or very shallow, depth of field.

DOFMASTER.COM/M



## PHOTO TOOLS PRO (ANDROID ONLY)

A versatile application for advanced amateur and professional photographers, this one provides a wide range of features. These range from DOF and hyperfocal distance calculator, flash exposure calculator, long-exposure time calculator, multiple-exposure calculator, field-of-view calculator, time-lapse calculator and more.

PLAY.GOOGLE.COM



## LONG EXPOSURE CALCULATORS (iOS ONLY)

As you might guess, this app for the iPhone and iPod Touch is a collection of different calculators and cheat sheets, including well-known and quite popular ND filters cheat sheets. It will help photographers when shooting very long exposures while using neutral-density filters or in very dark locations.

GENKIN.ORG/APPS/LONG-EXPOSURE-CALCULATORS



## POCKET LIGHT METER (ANDROID/IOS)

This is a very useful app that turns your smartphone into a light meter to measure reflected light at your preferred aperture, shutter speed or ISO setting. It can also make reciprocity calculations for images you'll make at an extremely long exposure.

POCKETLIGHTMETER.COM



## SYLIGHTS (iOS ONLY)

Simple and easy to use, this app allows you to document your lighting setups so you can recall them quickly when you're on location. Sylights also allows you to share your diagrams through email or by uploading them to websites such as Flickr and Facebook.

SYLIGHTS.COM/IPAD



## EASY RELEASE (ANDROID/IOS ONLY)

Instead of carrying model-release forms on paper for people to sign, you can use this app to create model or property releases and collect signatures on a touch-screen device. Approved by three major stock-photo agencies, it employs a wizard-style interface and includes a photo of the subject after the release has been signed. It can even email a PDF or JPEG too.

APPLICATIONGAP.COM



# PHOTO PRINTERS

## THE BEST MACHINES FOR HOME PRINTING

By Peter K. Burian

Standard-size 8 x 10" prints are fine for some purposes, like creating photo albums or books, but for wall decor they're typically too small. Many manufacturers produce larger printers, including some that cost as much as an economy car and can generate oversized outputs. Far more practical for photo enthusiasts, the 13 x 19" (or A3) format machines are more compact and affordable.

### CANON PIXMA PRO-1



A high-end model, this one employs 11 Lucia pigments (in oversized tanks) plus a Chroma (gloss) Optimizer for vibrant colours with a very wide gamut and truly neutral black-and-white prints with four monochrome inks used simultaneously. The pigments are fired by four FINE heads with 12,288 nozzles, in droplets as small as 4 pl. Canon includes ICC Colour Profiles for aftermarket papers.

MAX. RESOLUTION: **4800 X 2400 DPI** // INK: **12 LUCIA PIGMENTS**

PERMANENCE: **70 YEARS (GLOSSY PAPER), ON DISPLAY** // MAX. PRINT SIZE: **13 X 19"**

DIMENSIONS: **69.55 X 46.2 X 23.9 CM**

**\$960 (STREET)**

**CANON.CA**

### CANON PIXMA PRO-10



This machine with Ethernet connectivity and 7860 nozzles employs 10 LUCIA pigment-based inks, including three monochrome, plus a Chroma Optimizer for a uniform sheen on glossy and semi-gloss paper. Expect a wide colour gamut and beautiful black-and-white prints, all with exceptional longevity. Canon also provides ICC Colour Profiles for aftermarket papers with this machine.

MAX. RESOLUTION: **4800 X 2400 DPI** // INK: **10 LUCIA**

PERMANENCE: **70 YEARS (SEMI-GLOSS PAPER), ON DISPLAY** // MAX. PRINT SIZE: **13 X 19"**

DIMENSIONS: **69.1 X 21.6 X 38.6 CM**

**\$650 (STREET)**

**CANON.CA**

### CANON PIXMA PRO-100



An affordable and fast machine, this one provides built-in Wi-Fi and Ethernet connectivity. It employs a FINE print head with 6144 nozzles and eight ChromaLife 100+ dye-based inks for vibrant colours. The ink set includes three monochrome dyes to help enhance black density and produce excellent black-and-white prints. Canon's Optimum Image Generating System ensures colour accuracy.

MAX. RESOLUTION: **4800 X 2400 DPI** // INK: **8 CHROMALIFE 100+ DYES**

PERMANENCE: **100 YEARS IN STORAGE; "DECADES" ON DISPLAY** // MAX. PRINT SIZE: **13 X 19"**

DIMENSIONS: **68.9 X 38.5 X 21.5 CM**

**\$400 (STREET)**

**CANON.CA**



## EPSON ARTISAN 1430

Used by many scrapbookers, the Artisan 1430 with DX5 MicroPiezo print-head technology offers convenient wireless networking (802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi) to allow anyone on your network to create large prints or print onto CDs/DVDs. Features include advanced colour and lighting correction and a copy of Adobe Elements software. The prints are smudge, scratch, water and fade resistant.

MAX. RESOLUTION: **5670 X 1440 OPTIMIZED DPI** // INK: **6 CLARIA HI-DEFINITION DYES**

PERMANENCE: **90 YEARS UNDER GLASS, 200 IN ARCHIVAL ALBUMS**

MAX. PRINT SIZE: **13 X 19"** // DIMENSIONS: **61.7 X 79.8 X 41.4 CM**

**\$300** (STREET)

**EPSON.CA**



## EPSON STYLUS PHOTO R3000

This 9-colour machine with Advanced MicroPiezo AMC head, sprays UltraChrome K3 with Vivid Magenta pigments, including four monochrome with 1440 nozzles in droplets as small as 2 pl. AccuPhoto HD2 technology provides outstanding highlight and shadow detail; colours are consistent in all types of light. Advanced Black-and-White Photo Mode can create stunning neutral or toned prints.

MAX. RESOLUTION: **5670 X 1440 DPI** // INK: **9 ULTRACHROME K3 WITH VIVID MAGENTA**

PERMANENCE: **COLOUR, 108 YEARS; B&W, 200 YEARS ON DISPLAY**

MAX. PRINT SIZE: **13 X 19"; 13 X 44" ON ROLL PAPER** // DIMENSIONS: **61.5 X 22.9 X 36.8 CM**

**\$850** (STREET)

**EPSON.CA**



## EPSON STYLUS PHOTO R2880

A previous-generation pro-calibre machine, the R2880 employs a similar head with 1440 nozzles and uses eight UltraChrome K3 pigments, including Vivid Magenta. Advanced Black-and-White mode uses only monochrome inks for beautiful neutral (or warm, cool or sepia) prints. The front paper path is suitable for thick fine-art media. Radiance technology dramatically enhances image quality.

MAX. RESOLUTION: **5760 X 1440 DPI** // INK: **8 ULTRA CHROME K3 PIGMENTS IN 8 TANKS**

PERMANENCE: **COLOUR, 108 YEARS; B&W, 200 YEARS ON DISPLAY**

MAX. PRINT SIZE: **13 X 19"; 13 X 44" ON ROLL PAPER** // DIMENSIONS: **60.9 X 33 X 21 CM**

**\$650** (STREET)

**EPSON.CA**



## EPSON STYLUS PHOTO R2000

Priced to attract families, the R2000 employs an Advanced Micro Piezo AMC head with 1440 nozzles, spraying seven Epson UltraChrome K3 pigments with Vivid Magenta, plus a Gloss Optimizer, in droplets as small as 1.5 pl. Only one of the two monochrome inks is used for black-and-white printing, but three-level black technology offers a pleasing gray balance.

MAX. RESOLUTION: **5670 X 1440 OPTIMIZED DPI** // INK: **8 ULTRACHROME K3 WITH VIVID MAGENTA**

PERMANENCE: **COLOUR 108 YEARS; B&W, 200 YEARS ON DISPLAY**

MAX. PRINT SIZE: **13 X 19"; 13 X 44" ON ROLL PAPER** // DIMENSIONS: **62.3 X 79.7 X 41.8 CM**

**\$600** (STREET)

**EPSON.CA**



## EPSON SURECOLOR P600

The first Sure series machine—with Wi-Fi, Ethernet, cloud print and a 3.5" touch-screen LCD—uses a Micro Piezo AMC print head plus AccuPhoto HD technology and UltraChrome HD inks (in 26-ml cartridges) to provide a very wide colour gamut and rich, deep blacks. Auto switching between Matte and Photo black inks is now provided.

MAX. RESOLUTION: **5760 X 1440 DPI** // INK: **9 ULTRACHROME HD PIGMENTS, INCL. VIVID MAGENTA**

PERMANENCE: **ESTIMATED 100 YEARS ON DISPLAY**

MAX. PRINT SIZE: **13 X 19" (SHEET); 13 X 129" (ROLL)** // DIMENSIONS: **61.6 X 36.9 X 22.8 CM**

**\$879** (LIST)

**EPSON.CA**



# FLASH UNITS AND ACCESSORIES

## MOVING BEYOND BASIC EXPOSURE

By David Tanaka

With the strides made in the low-light performance of cameras, you can now photograph the proverbial black cat in a coal bin at midnight with decent image quality at a very high ISO. Of course, the new technology certainly doesn't render the auxiliary flash unit obsolete. No, the humble flashgun—and its supporting cast of light modifiers for a gentler effect—has moved from the utility closet to the creative department.

Aside from the much greater light output, an external flash unit—especially when used with an accessory—allows for more professional lighting effects. Read a book like *National Geographic* photographer Joe McNally's *Sketching Light* or *The Hot Shoe Diaries*, and you can't help but be awed by what the humble flashgun will do in the hands of a master. Here's a summary of the most recent and most popular flash units as well as a few of the most useful light-modifier accessories.

### EXTERNAL FLASH UNITS

#### CANON MR-14EX II MACRO RING LIGHT



This ring light is circular like many others intended for extreme close-ups, but has twin flash tubes that can be adjusted independently (Canon says up to six-stops). As you might expect, this unit supports E-TTL and can be used as a wireless slave unit. If you'd prefer a conventional flash unit, check out the 430EX II with a swivel/tilt 24-105 mm auto-zooming head; it's more compact/affordable than the pro-grade 600EX.

\$660 (STREET)

CANON.CA



#### NIKON SB-N10 UNDERWATER SPEEDLIGHT

The Nikon SB-N10 will follow the waterproof Nikon 1 AW1 to the depths because the flash unit is waterproof too; it's rated for depths of up to 100 metres. It supports auto TTL or manual exposure modes.

\$830 (STREET)

NIKON.CA



#### NIKON SB-500 AF SPEEDLIGHT

While other manufacturers have offered flash units with onboard LED lights for video, the SB-500 is the first one from Nikon. It is on the lower end of the Speedlight spectrum (when compared to the large and pro-grade Nikon models like the SB-910) in terms of power, size and price but is compatible with Wireless systems and Nikon's iTTL metering.

\$280 (STREET)

NIKON.CA

LIKE **PHOTO LIFE**  
FACEBOOK.COM/PHOTOLIFEMAG



## NISSIN I40

To be available soon, Nissin's i40 has plenty of power. But as well as being compact (230 g and about 55-mm shorter than other Nissin flash units) it also comes with a built-in LED array with nine brightness levels for video and supports intelligent TTL and wireless TTL slave mode. Variations of the i40 are available for Canon, Nikon, Sony, Fujifilm and Micro Four-Thirds cameras.

\$270 (STREET)

NISSINDIGITAL.COM



## OLYMPUS FL-600R

This full-featured unit with auto-zooming head for the OMD and PEN cameras offers high power output, a swivel/tilt head for bounce flash, high-speed sync (TTL-FP) and wireless remote TTL flash with many recent cameras. There's also a small round LED that provides enough light to brighten a subject that's very close to the camera.

\$300 (STREET)

OLYMPUSCANADA.COM



## PANASONIC DMW-FL580

This powerful, high-end unit complements the Lumix camera's dual strengths as still and video cameras. The small LED array is useful for nearby subjects when shooting videos. The full-featured flash module is wireless RC-enabled, and the zoom head covers a focal length range of 12-100 mm on the Micro Four Thirds platform, or as broad as 7 mm with the auxiliary panel.

\$700 (STREET)

PANASONIC.CA



## PENTAX AF360FGZ II

Weather-resistant and loaded with features, this mid-size unit with tilt/swivel 24-85 mm auto-zooming head offers creative-control modes, high-speed sync and wireless off-camera flash capability. The small LED lamp may provide enough illumination for a nearby subject when you're shooting video clips.

\$430 (STREET)

RICOH-IMAGING.CA



## SIGMA EF-610 DG SUPER

Available in models dedicated to most brands of cameras, this large unit with a tilt/swivel 24-105 mm auto-zooming head is quite powerful and versatile. It's compatible with the high-tech flash-metering systems and other important TTL functions of the cameras including wireless off-camera flash and high-speed sync.

\$250 (STREET)

SIGMACANADA.CA



## SONY HVL-F43M

Much smaller than the pro-grade HVL-F60M, this moisture-resistant model with a 24-105 mm auto-zooming tilt/swivel head is very versatile. Features include a small LED lamp for video, support for high-speed sync and wireless off-camera flash, an Auto WB mode and Quick Shift Bounce. The latter allows for maintaining horizontal lighting when the camera is held in a vertical orientation.

\$430 (STREET)

SONY.CA







## FLASH MODIFIERS

**GARY FONG LIGHTSPHERE COLLAPSIBLE SPEED MOUNT**

This latest version of the very popular modifier (intended for larger flash units) incorporates improvements to the mounting system that is more secure and quick to attach or remove, while offering a snug fit to more flash units including the latest generation of larger units. The translucent Lightsphere provides soft, even illumination with a minimum loss of power and folds flat for transport.

\$90 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM

**INTERFIT STROBIES PORTRAIT KIT**

Any of the six modifiers in this kit attach to a flashgun with the optional (\$15) Flex Mount accessory. The kit includes a Beauty Dish and the Softbox (for a portrait), a Globe Diffuser (for large groups) for soft lighting, a Snoot to channel the light into a defined spot; a Honeycomb Grid to narrow the spread of light; and Barndoors to control the shape, intensity and spread of the light.

\$150 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA

**ROGUE FLASHBENDER XL PRO KIT**

This kit bundles four of Rogue's large XL Pro modifiers: the FlashBender White Reflector, Strip Box Diffuser, Soft Box Diffuser, and Silver/Black Reflector. The diffusers are compact when folded down. An adjustable belt fits around most flash units, and each diffuser connects to the belt with hook and loop fastening.

\$120 (STREET)

REDRAVENPHOTO.COM

**HONL FILTER GEL KITS**

The keystone piece in the Honl system is the Speed Strap, with a high-friction side that securely grips the flash unit, and a hook and loop side to which you attach various Honl modifiers. The company offers several colour-filter kits including warming, cooling and effects packages that use filter material pre-cut to fit on the Speed Strap.

\$25 AND UP (STREET)

HONLPHOTO.COM

**ROGUE SAFARI DSLR POP-UP FLASH BOOSTER**

This unusual product uses a Fresnel lens to concentrate the flash output and increase its range by up to eight times the flash unit's rated range. This is ideal when flash must reach a distant subject, such as a bird on a nest. It works best with crop-sensor DSLRs (not full-frame) and with a telephoto lens of at least a 100-mm focal length.

\$40 (STREET)

REDRAVENPHOTO.COM

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# STUDIO LIGHTING AND ACCESSORIES

## POWERFUL EQUIPMENT FOR ON-LOCATION IMAGE-MAKING

By Peter K. Burian

We covered the compact electronic flash units (often called speedlights or flashguns) and their accessories in another section and that type of equipment is of the greatest interest to most photo enthusiasts. However, more powerful and more advanced lighting equipment is also available. This type of gear includes large studio strobes (flash) with great light output and the large light-modifying accessories as well as more compact kits that are more portable for use on-location. While some are definitely targeting professional or semi-pro photographers, others are more affordable. Compact kits should appeal to readers who might want to set up a small home studio, to those who want to get started with more advanced lighting and accessories, and to others who most often shoot on location.

A studio flash head (strobe light) is a large light source, varying in power output from moderate to very high. Most are powered by AC and some can also be powered by a large battery pack. They're nearly always used with a reflective panel or umbrella or with a diffuser accessory such as a soft box. When the light source is far from the camera, many photographers use a wireless radio trigger to ensure that it will fire whenever a photo is taken.

For shooting video, or for some portraits and still life photos, a constant light source such as a large LED panel or fluorescents are often used. Tungsten lights are still available too of course. They are larger and heavier and can get quite hot, but they are an affordable alternative.



### STROBES AND KITS

#### ELINCHROM D-LITE RX 4 TO GO SET

This portable kit for portraiture and product photography contains everything you'll need to get started: two (90-260V) full-featured 400-Ws strobes with EL-Skyport receiver, two 26 x 26" softboxes, two light stands and an EL-Skyport transmitter. The latter provides wireless radio remote control (to a range of 120 meters) of flash power settings, modelling lamp on/off, speed-sync mode and triggering. You also get a sync cord, a protective bag and a carrying case.

\$900 (STREET)

GNIGAMI.CA

#### PROFOTO B1 500 AIR TTL



This (3-kg) off-camera flash unit with an LED modelling light allows for wireless off-camera flash with high-tech metering with a Nikon or Canon DSLR like a dedicated flash unit does. An optional AirTTL Remote transmitter needs to be attached to your camera for control of one or more B1 units. The B1 provides 500 Ws of light; its output range of 9 f/stops can be controlled in 1/10-stop increments. A high-capacity Li-ion battery and a charger are included.

\$2300

PROFOTO.COM/CA

#### PROFOTO D1 STUDIO KIT 500/500 AIR



The D1 strobes are a favourite of pros and available for rent if desired. This kit includes two 500-Ws heads with 7-stop power range, short flash duration and recycle times plus a sync cable, two small white umbrellas, two stands, a built-in Air Radio Remote and a D1 kit case. Features include an LCD panel, dual-mode SMPS capacitor charging technology and digital flash circuitry for maximum consistency in colour temperature and output.

\$2800 (STREET)

PROFOTO.COM/CA



## PHOTOFLEX TRITONFLASH BATTERY POWERED STROBE DELUXE KIT

This is a complete kit including a strobe head, power module (with connections for two heads), a Li-ion battery, cables and charger, an AC power cord, a 7" reflector, a hot shoe sync cable, a swivel stand and a small soft box. Features include up to 750 full power flashes on a charge, 7-fps burst mode, 19 power settings and 300-Ws output.

\$1700 (STREET)

PHOTOFLEX.CA



## WIRELESS RADIO TRIGGERS POCKETWIZARD PLUSX TRANSCEIVER

This is the perfect entry into the wireless system of radio-controlled triggering options with a great range and reliability. Attach one PlusX to your camera, and another PlusX to a remote studio flash using an included cable. Set both to the same channel and start taking pictures. The PlusX is compatible with all PocketWizard transmitters and receivers including PocketWizard-enabled photo gear from Profoto, Dynalite, Norman and Photogenic.

\$115 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA



## POCKETWIZARD FLEX TT5 TRANSCEIVER RADIO SLAVE

Available in versions specifically for of Nikon and Canon DSLRs, this device supports the i-TTL and E-TTL II flash technology. (A firmware update may be required for newer cameras.) Attach one to the camera's hot shoe and another to a remote dedicated flash unit. It will use radio technology with an incredible 800-foot range. As you make adjustments on the camera, those adjustments are transmitted to the flash unit.

\$240 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA



## CONSTANT LIGHT SOURCES LASTOLITE RAYD8 C5600 KIT

An entry-level studio-lighting system for product and portrait photography, this kit features two high output 85-W compact fluorescent lights (equivalent to 400 W) for continuous lighting at 5000 K (approximately daylight balanced). The bulbs run at a low temperature, making them ideal for photographing food, people and other temperature sensitive subjects. The kit includes two of everything: light heads, reflectors, bulbs, reflectors, light stands and removable diffusers.

\$560 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



## LOWEL DV CREATOR 55 KIT WITH TO-83 CASE

This kit combine some of Lowel's most popular lights with accessories for increased versatility. It includes a 500-W Rifa eX 55 collapsible softlight, a 500-W max. focusable Omni-light, a 250-W focusable Pro-light and a 750-W max. broad throw Tota-light, plus Uni-stands and accessories in a compact case.

\$1600 (STREET)

LOWEL.TIFFEN.COM



## LUMAHAWK LMX-LD 1800AKT LED 2 HEAD KIT

An LED lighting kit (1.7 kg) with a wheeled carrying case for location use, this package includes two 900-W LED panels with 8' light stands for photographers or videographers. Each 6000-lx/m light panel consists of 900 LEDs with 50,000-hour bulb life, rear panel dial controls, dimmable output and 5600 K colour temperature. The panels can be mounted on the stands or on an overhead rail in a studio.

\$1600 (STREET)

NADEL.CA





## LED GO LG-B560

A basic LED light kit, this one includes a single LG-B560 LED panel with 3700 lx/m of illumination, a handle, a dimmer switch and a filter set. It's ideal for the field as it can use AC power or batteries. LED Go also markets pro kits with additional accessories that are useful in a studio, including light stands and additional LED panels for a larger light source.

\$350 (STREET)

GNIGAMI.CA



## LIGHT-MODIFYING ACCESSORIES

### ILLUMI SPEEDLIGHT COLLAPSIBLE SOFTBOX

A softbox is an essential accessory in a studio or on location and this flashgun-compatible 50 x 50 mm model is ideal in many respects. It's collapsible, folding flat for storage and transport, made of a tear-resistant material that provides a warm softness to the light. The tilt head bracket offers versatility in positioning when the softbox is mounted on a light stand, camera bracket or tripod.

\$110 (STREET)

GNIGAMI.CA



## LASTOLITE EZYBOX SERIES

Renowned flash expert McNally has collaborated with Lastolite to create the Ezybox series. The Speedlite Plus softbox attaches directly to any traditional flashgun with its one outer and three alternative inner diffusers. The medium (1 x 2 m) Lastolite Skylite Rapid collapsible aluminum frame with reflector and diffuser fabrics included, offers quick assembly while delivering reliable lighting control. Finally, the 4:1 Umbrella provides either circular or square catch lights.

\$150, \$380 AND \$260 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



## LASTOLITE TRIFLIP KIT 7:1 75 CM

This kit consists of seven 75-cm surfaces in two reversible panels, including black and various shades of gold, silver and white. There's also a 75-cm translucent panel that's useful when diffusion is required for softer light. The grip handle allows for conveniently holding the panel in the desired location to bounce light onto the subject. Simply insert the padded TriGrip handle into the TriFlip sleeve for instant access to different reflective surfaces.

\$200 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



## OTHER USEFUL ACCESSORIES

### JOBY FLASH CLAMP & LOCKING ARM

A versatile tool that allows for mounting a flash, LED panel or other accessory to a variety of objects, this device can attach to surfaces as thick as 5 cm. It's equipped with a removable shoe mount and a 1/4"-20 screw for attaching your device and two articulating ball joints for locking it into any angle. It also has a tightening knob that will provide vibration-resistant stability. The two-pivot points have the ability to rotate 360° and pivot 180°.

\$40 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA

## MANFROTTO 1314B BACKGROUND KIT

Rolls of seamless paper make for an ideal background since the cost per square metre is not very high. This Manfrotto kit was specifically designed to securely hold rolls (or sheets) of paper or another type of material as wide as 9' at a maximum height of almost 8'. It includes two stands, a pole whose length can be varied, two spring clamps to hold the background in place, and a carrying bag.

\$350 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



## SAVAGE UNIVERSAL BACKDROPS

You can find backdrops in various materials including vinyl for durability; some include a photo or painting of an artificial background such as various patterns or an outdoor scene. A roll of seamless, heavyweight paper is the most affordable and it's easy to cut off a section when it gets soiled. Savage makes a broad variety of non-reflective colours, in rolls of various sizes; any of these would work well when you're first getting started.

\$36 FOR A 53 X 36" ROLL (STREET)

SAVAGEUNIVERSAL.COM



## SEKONIC L-478DR LITE MASTER PRO

This incident, reflected and flash meter for stills and videos features a large 2.7" colour LCD with touch-screen control; it displays ambient, flash, cine and other information. Benefits include a flash-exposure analyzing function, many cine features for video and an optional 5-degree spot finder. The L-478DR allows for PocketWizard triggering and flash power setting with a touch of a finger, with ControlTL radios, when using Nikon, Canon and select studio flashes.

\$500 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA



## LASTOLITE HOTROD OCTA ELINCHROM QUADRA KIT 70 CM

This light modifier (designed for mounting on a light stand), with an unusual shape, is intended especially for portraiture when using a high-powered flash unit. The large surface area of the box produces a wrap-around quality to the light for natural-looking (octagonal) catch lights in the eyes. The kit includes a removable internal baffle and softbox adapter with a hot shoe mount. The entire setup process takes only about five minutes.

\$260 (LIST)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



## MANFROTTO CUSHIONED COMPACT STAND

You can buy inexpensive, flimsy light stands but for a bit more it's possible to get one of the air-cushioned QSS (Quick Stand System) series such as this 3-section model with two risers; it extends to a height of 2.3 m. Air cushioning protects fingers and mounted equipment; if the stand sections are not sufficiently tightened, mounted equipment eases down to minimum height instead of slamming down suddenly.

\$110 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



## WESTCOTT 43" OPTICAL SATIN UMBRELLA

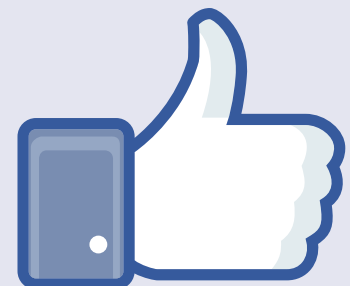
Designed to be used either as a soft silver umbrella for bouncing flash light onto the subject (with its black cover on), this accessory can also be positioned close to the subject and used as a shoot-through diffuser (with the cover removed). It's collapsible for portability and quick to open and close; hence, it will be useful when you will be shooting on location.

\$50 (STREET)

FJWESTCOTT.COM/CANADA



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# VIDEO ACCESSORIES

## COMPLEMENTING GEAR TO ENHANCE YOUR VIDEO EXPERIENCE

By David Tanaka

Since many cameras for still photography now include a Movie mode, we presume that most readers have begun experimenting with this feature. If you have done so, you may have discovered that capturing a real-time stream of moving pictures and audio isn't nearly the same as snapping a single photo. Video accessories can help make the process more effective and convenient. In some cases, they solve similar kinds of problems that you encounter with still photography but in others, they provide video-specific benefits.

Take auxiliary lighting, for example. Just as a flash unit is handy for still photos, portable continuous lighting can give a boost to video. The same can be said for light modifiers such as reflectors and diffusers. Continuous light used to be limited to incandescent solutions, which were fragile and also produced a lot of heat. Today we have daylight-balanced LED lighting products intended primarily for video but also useful in still photography when you prefer not to use electronic flash.

Many accessories are specific to video; you're not likely to find them relevant to photography. Audio is the most obvious example; some consider audio to be the critical component of video quality because audiences have a very low tolerance for bad audio. Some relevant accessories enhance the built-in capabilities of your camera, such as an external microphone that plugs into a jack and mounts in a camera's hot shoe.

In other cases specialized gear provides more capable alternatives. Audio field recorders, for example, can record higher-quality sound than the circuitry built into the camera. They also offer additional functions such as audio mixing and more flexibility in placement.

As 4K video (which essentially doubles the resolution of Full HD video) races into the market, high-resolution video recorders are also making their debut. These recording decks plug into the HDMI port of suitably equipped cameras; with certain still cameras that can record 4K only to an external accessory, one of these recorders is particularly beneficial. If your camera is equipped with HDMI out, you might also want to consider a large, external LCD for a better viewing experience than you get with the camera's monitor.

Video tripods are discussed in another section, but for "run-and-gun" situations where you are recording while walking or running, other accessories are available. They're designed to keep the camera undulations under control. Large very expensive products are available for professional video productions but more practical solutions are marketed for photo enthusiasts as well. The most popular are the shoulder rigs, which can definitely minimize camera shake as you remain mobile.

### LED VIDEO LIGHTS

#### LUMAHAWK LMX-LD144AS ON-CAMERA LED LIGHT



This 144-light LED panel can be powered by the rechargeable battery or AC power and it includes features for modifying the colour temperature of the light as well as the power output. These two amenities are valuable and are standard with pro-grade LED panels as well.

\$250 (STREET)

NADEL.CA

#### LED GO CN-B150



Compact, camera-mountable LED video-lighting panels have proliferated and they're available in many brands. They share some core features, but LED Go's entry has a few notable differences too. The frameless design reduces the gap between the LED panels when you clip two or more together to form larger lighting surfaces. This 150-LED panel includes controls for modifying power output and colour temperature.

\$200 (STREET)

GNIGAMI.CA

#### APUTURE AMARAN AL-528W



About the size of an iPad and only 3.2 cm thick, this light with 528 LED bulbs provides great brightness but also a dimmer control switch. It's daylight balanced but colour temperature adjustment is possible using the orange filter; a white diffusing filter is also included.

\$250 (STREET)

EDMAMARKETING.COM

## ROTOLIGHT INTERVIEW KIT V.2

The Interview Kit packages two Rotolight 48-LED light heads, two stands, a 10-piece "Creative Colour FX" filter set and a pouch. You can also buy the pieces individually but the kit is very convenient.

\$350 (STREET)

GNIGAMI.CA



## MANFROTTO ML360H MIDI HYBRID LED

Flash units with small built-in LED arrays are becoming common; Manfrotto's ML360H offers both functions using only LEDs. The flash mode emits a pulse of light that is four times brighter than the continuous output of the LEDs, which would be used as continuous lighting when shooting videos. This panel runs on four AAs, accepts gel filters to modify the colour temperature and features a dimmer control switch.

\$200 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



## HDMI VIDEO RECORDERS AND SCREENS ATOMOS SHOGUN 4K HDMI RECORDER

The Ninja and Samurai units established Atomos as a player in high-end HDMI recording decks for SLRs. Now, the Shogun pushes the capabilities further by offering 4K video recording as well as HD. It will capture to Apple ProRes or Cinema DNGRaw through the camera's HDMI port. The unit includes a 7.1" 1920 x 1200-pixel display, support for XLR through the included cable and SSD and HDD storage options including RAID.

\$2250 (STREET)

ATOMOS.COM



## BLACKMAGIC DESIGN HYPERDECK SHUTTLE 2

This deck records uncompressed 10-bit HD from the HDMI (1.3) port of suitably equipped DSLRs and saves in QuickTime format, or alternatively using an Avid 10-bit codec. You'll need to supply your own drive—it's designed for 2.5" solid-state drives (which fortunately have become quite affordable). The kit includes an internal rechargeable Li-ion battery and a 12-V AC adapter.

\$400 (STREET)

BLACKMAGICDESIGN.COM



## LUMAHAWK LMM-PRO400

This is one of several LCD HD Camera Monitor models in sizes up to 8" and of various resolutions for cameras equipped with an HDMI port (most current models are), mounted in the hot shoe or on a tripod or light stand. The 5.6" LMM-PRO400 offers 1280 x 800 resolution, 350 cd/m2 brightness and a 500:1 contrast ratio. The kit includes a folding hood, HDMI cable, battery plate, shoe mount adapter and an AC adapter.

\$530 FOR 5.6" MODEL (STREET)

NADEL.CA



## MARSHALL 5" V-LCD-HDMI

This company makes a series of pro-calibre monitors including this 5" model with 800 x 480 resolution that fits into a camera's hot shoe. Features include a wide variety of formats, user-configurable front panel function buttons, RGB gain and bias control, as well as filters for peaking (to aid in manual focusing) and for false colour. It's powered by included rechargeable AAs or AC power.

\$680 (STREET)

MARSHALLMONITORS.COM



## AUDIO ACCESSORIES INVISION VIDEO HOT SHOE MOUNT

External microphones can greatly improve your audio quality, but beware of recording noise made while handling the equipment. Shock mounts solve the problem but typically come only with microphone stand threading. Invision's suspension system was designed to attach directly to your camera hot shoe; the mic then mounts in this accessory.

\$100 (STREET)

RYCOTE.COM





## SENNHEISER MKE400

With its integrated shock mount, this metal shotgun mic mounts to a camera hot shoe and plugs into a 3.5-mm mini-stereo port. Of course, your camera needs an external microphone input in order to use this device. It is compact for a shotgun design: just 130 mm long. The super-cardioid design can be set to near and far distance sensitivity.

\$270 (STREET)

EN-CA.SENNHEISER.COM



## ZOOM H2N

You might mistake this for a studio microphone, but the compact H2N is a full digital recorder capturing up to 96 kHz 24-bit WAV files and MS-Raw files or up to 320-kbit/s MP3 files. It carries five built-in microphones that will record stereo, 2-channel and 4-channel surround, and mid-side stereo, with the ability to control the width of separation. A 2-GB SD card is included, but the unit will accept up to 32-GB cards. An accessory kit (\$40) includes foam windscreens, case, wired remote unit, mic stand adapter, mini-tripod and AC adapter.

\$200

ZOOM-NA.COM



## CAMERA SUPPORTS

### REDROCK MICRO STEALTH V NANO DSLR RIG

Only one of a vast range of accessories in this brand, this rig kit—with an extended handgrip to assure great manoeuvring ability—can be adjusted to hold the camera (with the handgrip) so you can view the scene on the LCD while recording. There's also a body pad that ensures that your arm will be in a relaxed position while you enjoy the great stability this rig can provide. (There's also a Stealth model without the handgrip; \$430.)

\$500 (STREET)

GNIGAMI.CA



### SEVENOAK CAMERA STABILIZER SKW02/VIDEO STABILIZER SKW06

You can find many Sevenoak accessories, including these two rigs; they share the same basic design but the larger one has a greater capacity of 2.25 kg. The basic unit has a 1-kg capacity, making it suitable for a compact DSLR with a kit lens. Both have a curved main body attached by a gimbal to the handle. Included counterweights can be added to customize the balance point for a variety of camera models. There's also a Pro model (\$230) of an entirely different design for heavier equipment.

\$120 AND \$150 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM

## KAMERAR SD-1 SLIDER DOLLY

This slick unit combines the functions of a slider and a wheeled dolly. The 60-cm central rail, made of aluminum, can be mounted to a tripod and the sliding camera platform has roughly 40 cm of movement between the safety stops. The SD-1 comes with roller-blade type wheels mounted on axles that have a track width of 18 cm. Attached to the rail, the axles can be turned independently, which allows you to adjust the radius of arc patterns as well as set up straight runs.

\$150 (STREET)

KAMERAR.COM

## IFOOTAGE M1 COMPACT MINICRANE CARBON FI

Made of 6x carbon fibre and aluminum, the MiniCrane M1 weighs just 1.5 kg, and folds down to 75 cm. It extends to 200 cm with a working radius of 120 cm from pivot to camera platform. It will support up to 5 kg, and has an adjustable counterweight system.

\$600 (STREET)

IFOOTAGEGEAR.COM





# Introducing the Canon 7D Mark II.

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## **Canon** 7D Mark II DSLR

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\*Shown with optional lens

*Incredibly fast. Amazingly accurate. Revolutionary HD recording.*

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[www.henrys.com](http://www.henrys.com)

# CARRYING SOLUTIONS

## INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

### FOR PROTECTION AND COMFORT

By David Tanaka

If you are looking for that one perfect bag for your camera gear, you may be setting yourself up for disappointment. Why? Consider the diversity of your interests and activities. Whether it's travelling to an exotic land, backpacking, on your way home from work or enjoying the urban scene, it's easy to add the phrase "and also take photos." Just as you dress differently for the various activities in your life, so too will you find different types of camera bag and cases well suited to various kinds of activities and environments.

In this section, you'll find coverage of the primary types of bags/cases used by serious photo enthusiasts but also about some other products, particularly the sling-type straps. Designed for comfort, sling straps relieve weight from your neck and prevent the problem of a conventional strap slipping off your shoulder. They vary in design and style but typically, they're worn diagonally across the torso, with the camera/lens hanging upside down, allowing for quick access.

#### SHOULDER AND MESSENGER BAGS

##### BILLINGHAM HADLEY PRO



Made of canvas with real leather trim and brass fittings for a traditional look and feel, this bag resembles a business case but with a removable camera insert system. You'll find bellowed front pockets with metallic fastenings, a main flap for weather protection and an 8 x 12" waterproof zippered pocket for documents or a slim tablet. The carrying handle is integrated with a fiberglass stiffener inside the top flap and the shoulder strap is fully adjustable.

\$330 (STREET)

KINDERMANN.CA

##### LOWEPRO PASSPORT SLING III



This innovative design of the Passport sling shows improvements with each generation. The series III includes an adjustable/removable camera insert with a cradle-fit compartment, an adjustable strap with shoulder strap and a slot for a tablet. It will hold a DSLR or CSC with two lenses. An expandable front compartment increases capacity by 30% for accessories and there are four exterior slip pockets, two on each side, and an interior zippered mesh pocket with a key leash.

\$65 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA

##### ONA BROOKLYN SATCHEL



This slim messenger bag is handcrafted with vegetable-tanned, full-grain leather and features a fully customizable interior, secure, easy access closure and an adjustable padded strap. The design was inspired by the classic 1940s school bag and it will accommodate an SLR with an attached lens and up to 3 additional lenses or small accessories. A slit pocket along the back accepts your tablet while the front pocket holds small items. The handsome, classy Brooklyn is available in black or chestnut.

\$400 (STREET)

ONABAGS.COM

##### ROOTS STORM DLSR BAG RH115



Made of nylon, this bag is equipped with a padded main compartment and multiple, removable padded dividers. The main compartment fits a DSLR with up to a 7" lens plus a secondary lens and flash unit. Zippered outside pockets provide room for memory cards, batteries and other accessories, while the padded carrying handle and detachable shoulder strap offer carrying options. Features include a large protective flap, interior pockets and rear document pockets.

\$89 (STREET)

ROOTS-GENTEC.COM





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[lowepro.com/hardside](http://lowepro.com/hardside)

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## TENBA MESSENGER DNA



This brand new series, available in three sizes, offers year-round, all-weather, rugged performance with an interior that's designed to protect delicate cameras, lenses and computer gear. The front flap extends over the top of the bag and has a sewn hinge to ensure easy closure and weather resistance. A removable and reversible WeatherWrap cover is included; it's silver on one side to reflect the heat, and black on the other side for a bit more stealth and subtlety at night.

\$80 TO \$150 (STREET)

GNIGAMI.CA

## TENBA SHOOTOUT SLING BAG LE



A single-strap bag that swings around for fast shooting without removing the pack, this sling provides the speed of a shoulder bag but with greater comfort. A back panel allows full access to the main compartment to allow for convenient loading. There's a small version too, but the medium bag will fit two pro DSLRs plus 3-4 lenses, accessories and a tripod or monopod. Features include interior dividers, a front access pocket, protective bottom feet and a WeatherWrap cover.

\$100 TO \$110 (STREET)

GNIGAMI.CA

## THINK TANK URBAN DISGUISE 50 V2.0



Resembling an expandable briefcase with a contoured shoulder strap and leather grab handles, the 50 size model will hold a large DSLR with a 70-200 mm f/2.8 zoom attached, plus 2-4 additional lenses in a removable compartment and a 15.4" laptop in a separate padded slot. Three other sizes are also available. The front unzips quickly while a rear panel can serve as a trolley sleeve on a luggage cart. A rain cover is supplied for increased protection.

\$200 TO \$250 (STREET)

NADEL.CA

## BACKPACKS

### LOWEPRO ROVER PRO AW



For serious backcountry photography you need a good backpack, such as the AW 35 or the larger AW 45. Both are equipped with adjustable waist belt and shoulder straps for a custom fit, and a mesh back panel to wick away moisture. Access to the contents is from the top or from the front; the removable modules make the interior fully customizable. Amenities include a removable All Weather cover, methods for attaching a tripod, hydration pouch and sleeping bag.

\$250 TO \$350 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA

### MANFROTTO PRO-LIGHT 3N1



The Pro-Light series includes several types of products, including this unique backpack, available in the 25PL and 35PL versions. It can be set up as a right hand sling, a backpack, a left-hand sling or in an x-position. Rotate the bag to your front for quick access to the gear. Benefits include tripod connectors, water-repellent fabrics and a fold-out rain/UV protector, a customizable interior, a slot for a laptop PC and camera protection (shock resistance).

\$270 AND \$300 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM

### TENBA SHOOTOUT ROLLING BACKPACK LE MEDIUM



Like a few other backpacks on the market, this one is equipped with wheels—smooth inline skate wheels in this case—for convenience while walking long distances through airports, for example. Of course, it's a versatile backpack with adjustable padded dividers, for two DSLRs, 6-8 lenses, accessories and (in a padded sleeve) a 15" PC. Features include a moisture-resistant base, tripod carrier, padded side pockets and a WeatherWrap rain cover.

\$260 (STREET)

GNIGAMI.CA

## WHEELED TRANSPORTERS

### LOWEPRO PRO ROLLER X100AW

Targeting serious shooters, this carry-on size case offers a MaxFit interior with adjustable dividers as well as a 15" PC compartment. Protection for gear is provided by TSA-approved locks, the internal padding, plus a hard-shell exterior. An All Weather cover is also included. The wheels boast an ABEC-5 rating for a smooth glide. The X100 AW will accommodate one or two pro DSLRs, 4-6 lenses (to 400 mm), accessories and personal items. Two larger models are also available.

\$360 TO \$450 (LIST)

DAYMEN.CA



### MANFROTTO ROLLER BAG 50

This professional travel trolley bag with retractable handle was designed to hold two pro DSLRs, two 70-200 F/2.8 lenses, 4-5 extra lenses, two flashes, a 17" laptop, a tablet—and a tripod on external straps—and much more while retaining a carry-on size. It features Manfrotto's camera-protection system and the Exo-tough multi-layered construction to give the maximum protection. The interior includes moveable dividers and the exterior is water-repellent; a rain cover is also included.

\$380 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



### THINK TANK AIRPORT ROLLER DERBY

This is a large (but said to be carry-on size) case can accommodate a 15" PC, a tablet, up to two DSLRs with lenses attached and 6-7 standard zoom lenses. Remove the laptop PC and it will accommodate a 400-mm f/2.8 telephoto. The four dual wheels allow it to roll upright, tilted back or on its side for convenient navigation to reduce muscle fatigue. A lock and cable secure the lockable zippers and tether the bag.

\$520 (STREET)

NADEL.CA



## INNOVATIVE ACCESSORIES

### BLACKRAPID SPORT R-STRAP

Now available in a camo version (as well as right- and left-handed models), the Sport series provides additional security with an underarm tether that holds the foam shoulder pad (which distributes weight) in position. These ballistic and cordura nylon sling straps are worn diagonally across the torso, with the camera/lens (attached via the tripod socket) hanging upside down at your hip. All of the Sport R models are suitable for a heavy camera/lens and ship with the necessary connector accessories.

\$120 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



### THINK TANK DIGITAL HOLSTER 20 V2.0

Think Tank improved the basic camera holster case design with a shape that's asymmetrical to conform nicely to DSLR bodies. A "pop-down" expandable snoot portion allows the case to accommodate a larger lens or a lens with hood attached. The water-resistant holster will carry a prosumer level DSLR with 70-200 mm f/2.8 lens and a reversed hood attached. A removable non-slip shoulder strap is included but this case can also be attached to one of the optional Think Tank belts.

\$95 (STREET)

NADEL.CA





## COTTON CARRIER CARRY-LITE BELT SYSTEM

Designed to hold a DSLR with a moderate size lens, this kit includes a hand strap, a universal camera adapter, a heavy duty, padded waist belt, an adjustable shoulder strap and a camera tether. Attach the hub mechanism to the camera's tripod mount and it's securely attached but can be instantly released. The tether keeps the equipment attached to the shoulder strap or to the D-ring on the waist belt. A removable Side Holster accessory is also included.

\$120 (STREET)

COTTONCARRIER.COM



## COTTON CARRIER STRAPSHOT

This accessory for outdoor photographers allows for attaching a DSLR to any backpack via a hub mechanism. The StrapShot was designed for great comfort, security and speed. High-quality Velcro wings hug the backpack strap, while a tether clips onto the backpack's D-ring to prevent slippage but there's also an instant release mechanism. A patented locking system keeps the camera securely attached. If you're carrying a lightweight camera, you might want to use the Strapshot with a waist belt instead.

\$90 (STREET)

COTTONCARRIER.COM



## JOBY SLING ULTRAFIT

Available in a version for men and another for women, these straps feature a cinch that keeps the camera tight against the body but quickly extends to shooting mode with a pull on the camera. For added security in crowded places, lock the strap in the cinched position; when you're ready to shoot, open the clip and with one fluid motion pull the camera up. The UltraFit attachment mechanism has a greased bearing so your camera can be freely rotated.

\$50 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA



## PEAK DESIGN LEASH

This versatile product with adjustable length is made with high-grade webbing and Kevlar "anchors" that attach to your camera. The Leash can be used as a conventional neck strap or as a safety tether attached to your belt or as a sling strap (attached to an optional quick-release camera clip plate). As a bonus, you can run the strap down to the ground from the tripod socket and pull up on the camera to help stabilize it when shooting videos.

\$40 (STREET)

PEAKDESIGN.COM

## SPIDER HOLSTERS

This series was designed to hold the camera/lens on your hip for comfortable weight distribution. For heavy equipment, check out the large Pro model with steel and aluminum components, a heavy duty belt, a Pro plate for attaching to a camera and a quick release mechanism. The camera/lens slides into the holster and is locked in securely but it allows for a smooth quick-draw access when you're ready to take a shot. Smaller Black Widow models (see photo) are also available.

\$85 TO \$150 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM





# Sigma's sportiest telephoto lens.

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## SIGMA

150-600mm F5-6.3 DG OS HSM | S

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*High-action capture performance.*

Designed and executed for the most demanding types of photography, the Sigma 150-600mm 5-6.3 DG HSM OS Sports lens is the new standard for telephoto zooms. Boasting 2 FLD glass elements (performance equal to fluorite) and 3 SLD glass elements, the new Sigma 150-600mm Sport produces incredibly sharp images through the entire zoom range.



**HENRY'S**

[www.henrys.com](http://www.henrys.com)

# TRIPODS AND HEADS

## OPTIONS TO STEADY YOUR PHOTO AND VIDEO GEAR

By David Giral

Whether for images made at long exposures or for smooth panning in videos, a tripod is a must-have accessory for photographers. Such accessories are comprised of two elements, legs and head. Some kits include heads and some do not. Keep in mind that many of the better tripods allow you to remove the head and use another one, so you need not replace the entire kit if switching from a ball head to a fluid video head, for example. The following covers the three primary types of tripods, mostly in kits including a head since that's the most affordable way to get both components. After reading this section, narrow the field to a few models of interest to you and look for reviews online. More importantly, visit a well-stocked photo retailer to try your favourites—with equipment attached—to get a feel for its stability and convenience of operation.



### COMPACT & TRAVEL TRIPODS

#### FOTOPRO X4I

Surprisingly short when folded, this kit with a five-section aluminum tripod with three leg angle adjustments, ergonomic lock and a split centre column for low-level use, also includes a carrying case and an FPH-53P ball head with a double bubble level. The tripod is made with new CNC forging (instead of die-cast) technology for strength, stability and durability.

FOLDED LENGTH: **32 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **146 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED**  
WEIGHT: **1.27 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **5 KG**

**\$190 (STREET)**

**DIGITECTRADING.COM**



#### GITZO TRAVELER GK1580TQR5

A magnesium ball head (GH1780TQR) with independent pan and tilt locks, panorama base and quick-release system sits atop five-section, anti-rotation Series-1 6x carbon-fibre legs with G-locks for quick setup. The independent leg angle adjustment is useful for uneven surfaces and the removable centre column allows for ground-level operation. Although sturdy, this kit is very compact when folded.

FOLDED LENGTH: **35 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **149 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED**  
WEIGHT: **1.16 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **5.5 KG**

**\$950 (STREET)**

**GENTEC-INTL.COM**



#### MANFROTTO COMPACT ADVANCED

Available in black or white, this new aluminum-alloy five-section tripod features an inventive three-way head with two independent, ergonomic levers that fold when the tripod is not in use, for great portability. This tripod is targeted at photo enthusiasts who own an entry level DSLR with standard zoom lenses up to 200 mm. A carrying case is included.

FOLDED LENGTH: **44 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **165 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED**  
WEIGHT: **1.42 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **3 KG**

**\$130 (STREET)**

**GENTEC-INTL.COM**

## MANFROTTO BEFREE CARBON FIBRE

Similar to the metal model but with lighter weight, this new four-section tripod features clip-style aluminum locks with adjustable tension and two independent leg angle settings. When not in use the kit is compact since the legs fold around the ball head with its single control knob and quick-release system for protection of this component. A shoulder bag is also included.

FOLDED LENGTH: **40 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **144 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED**  
WEIGHT: **1.1 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **4 KG**

**\$400** (LIST)

**GENTEC-INTL.COM**



## MEFOTO ROADTRIP TRAVEL TRIPOD KIT

Available in five colours, this weather-resistant kit includes aluminum-alloy legs with a reverse-folding design, a dual-action heavy-duty ball head with Arca-Swiss style quick release and a carrying case. Features include quick twist rubber lock grips, anti-rotation legs and two leg angle positions. Remove the centre column and the foam-cushioned leg, connect them, and you'll have a useful monopod.

FOLDED LENGTH: **39 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **156 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED**  
WEIGHT: **1.6 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **8 KG**

**\$180** (STREET)

**GNIGAMI.CA**



## MEFOTO GLOBETROTTER CARBON FIBRE

Suitable for heavy equipment, this tripod also converts into a monopod in seconds. The Q-series ball head with Arca-Swiss-style quick-release plate and tension plus panning lock allows for quick setup and positioning. The five-section anti-rotation legs, with two independent angle positions, feature innovative rubber locking grips enabling quick adjustments and weather resistance. A carrying case is also included.

FOLDED LENGTH: **41 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **1.63 M WITH COLUMN EXTENDED**  
WEIGHT: **1.7 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **12 KG**

**\$399** (STREET)

**GNIGAMI.CA**



## ENTHUSIAST-LEVEL TRIPODS

### GITZO GK1542-80QD SERIES 1 MOUNTAINEER KIT

This premium-grade kit includes a four-section tripod with Carbon eXact tubes, g-lock ultra locks and leg angle selectors plus a centre ball head with a new hybrid Arca-Swiss-style quick release. The legs, with their larger diameters, improve the overall rigidity for great weight capacity. The center column, equipped with a hook for hanging weights, can be removed to allow for very low-level operation.

FOLDED LENGTH: **64.5 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **170 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED**  
WEIGHT: **1.78 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **10 KG**

**\$1100** (STREET)

**GENTEC-INTL.COM**



## INDURO GRAND SERIES EP CT304

Induro's newly designed spider component is what makes the Grand system possible. This carbon-fibre tripod with twist locks for maximum capacity in a modular design includes a flat top plate that can be replaced with an optional hand crank, levelling base or a video bowl.

FOLDED LENGTH: **59.9 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **159.5 CM** // WEIGHT: **2.2 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **20 KG**

**\$600** (STREET)

**GNIGAMI.CA**







## MANFROTTO 055 XPRO3 KIT

This redesigned three-section tripod features Quick Power locks for unusually high rigidity and fast operation, a camera-levelling feature under the head mount and an Easy Link attachment for accessories such as an LED light or a reflector. Convenient (independent) leg angle selectors are also provided. The center column (equipped with a bubble level) can easily be set for a horizontal position, useful in low-angle and macro photography.

FOLDED LENGTH: 61 CM • MAX. HEIGHT: 170 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED • WEIGHT: 2.5 KG • LOAD CAPACITY: 9 KG

**\$429** WITH 498RC2 BALL HEAD OR X-PRO 3-WAY HEAD (LIST)

**GENTEC-INTL.COM**



## SLIK PRO 700DX

Made with an aluminum magnesium and titanium aerospace alloy with much greater strength than aluminum, this affordable 3-section tripod with a 4-way panhead with quick release can support telephoto lenses. It features lever leg locks, three leg angle positions, and dual alignment grooves on all leg tubes to eliminate twisting for great strength and stability.

FOLDED LENGTH: 76 CM // MAX. HEIGHT: 190 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED // WEIGHT: 3 KG // LOAD CAPACITY: 6.8 KG

**\$200** (STREET)

**DAYMEN.CA**



## SIRUI ET-2004 KIT

To be available soon, the ET series' 4-section legs can be flipped up 180° allowing the tripod to be folded to a small size. It's built from aluminum with flip-type locks and a forged-aluminum spider. The included E-20 ball head, with quick release, provides a separate panning and main locking knob plus a bubble level and a calibration scale. A short column for low-level work and a case are included.

FOLDED LENGTH: 43 CM // MAX. HEIGHT: 121.5 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED  
WEIGHT: 1.6 KG // LOAD CAPACITY: 12 KG

**\$200** (STREET)

**KINDERMANN.CA**



## SIRUI T-025XC10KX KIT

The T-series' 5-section legs can be flipped up 180° allowing the tripod to be folded to a small size. The 8-layer carbon-fibre leg tubes feature silicone twist locks and 3 independent leg-angle positions. The centre column can be removed for low-level work. It's equipped with a C-10 ball head with separate controls for pan and tilt and an Arca-style quick-release system. A padded case is included.

FOLDED LENGTH: 30 CM // MAX. HEIGHT: 121 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED // WEIGHT: 0.8 KG // LOAD CAPACITY: 6 KG

**\$270** (STREET)

**KINDERMANN.CA**

## VIDEO TRIPODS AND HEADS

### BENRO A2573FS6 KIT

Starting with an aluminum 2573F tripod with magnesium-alloy components, individually adjustable leg angles, and quick-lock flip-type lever locks and anti-rotation legs this kit includes an S6 fluid head. The latter features a quick release and levelling platform, separate pan and tilt friction controls and an illuminated bubble level. A counterbalance feature allows for great stability with long, heavy lenses.

FOLDED LENGTH: 67 CM // MAX. HEIGHT: 178 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED  
WEIGHT: 3.2 KG // LOAD CAPACITY: 5.9 KG

**\$299** (STREET)

**GNIGAMI.CA**



## BENRO A573TBS8 DUAL TUBE VIDEO TRIPOD KIT

Suitable for heavy equipment, this kit with fluid head includes a three-section twin-leg aluminum-alloy tripod with a mid-level spreader (brace), quick-lock levers and a padded travel case with backpack straps plus a video head. The S8 fluid head features stepless, continuous adjustment of both pan and tilt drag and extensive pan and tilt angles plus an adjustable counterbalance system.

FOLDED LENGTH: **84 CM** // MAX HEIGHT: **160 CM** // WEIGHT: **5.5 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **8 KG**

**\$550** (STREET)

**GNIGAMI.CA**



## GITZO G2180 SERIES 1 VIDEO FLUID HEAD

Gitzo is not marketing a video kit, but this fluid head would be an ideal addition to a suitable tripod. It's made of lightweight Techno Polymer and equipped with an alloy quick-release top stage and a counter-balance system. It can be used with or without the included pan arm. That component definitely should be left in place when shooting video for smooth pans.

FOLDED LENGTH: **N/A** // MAX HEIGHT: **8.5 CM** // WEIGHT: **0.57 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **4 KG**

**\$259** (STREET)

**GENTEC-INTL.COM**



## MANFROTTO MVK502AM-1 KIT

Consisting of an aluminum MVT502AM tripod and an MVH502A fluid head plus a padded carrying bag, this kit features a telescopic two-stage three-section legs, ellipse-profile aluminum tubes, new leg locking collars, a first-stage spreader (brace) for stability and high-grip rubber feet. There's also a 75-mm base for the aluminum head with a levelling feature and spring-loaded counterbalance system for stability.

FOLDED LENGTH: **75 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **1.56 M** // WEIGHT: **3.8 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **7 KG**

**\$629** (STREET)

**GENTEC-INTL.COM**



## SLIK 504QF II KIT

Designed for shooting video or stills with a CSC or DSLR camera, this kit includes a tripod with three leg angle positions and thumbscrew locks plus a three-way fluid-effect pan head with Omni-Directional quick release. The head is equipped with an extra long adjustable control handle to provide ultra smooth panning. A broader top plate creates greater stability when a long lens is used.

FOLDED LENGTH: **69.6 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **154 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED**  
WEIGHT: **2.59 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **5 KG**

**\$224** (STREET)

**DAYMEN.CA**



## VELBON C600 FLUID VIDEO TRIPOD KIT

This kit includes a heavy-duty aluminum tripod with bracing struts and three-section legs with quick-release locks plus a 2-way head with quick-release platform. The geared centre column features a pre-set friction control for quick and easy vertical camera positioning. A levelling bubble is also mounted on the tripod body for fast and accurate levelling.

FOLDED LENGTH: **67 CM** // MAX. HEIGHT: **163 CM WITH COLUMN EXTENDED**  
WEIGHT: **2 KG** // LOAD CAPACITY: **4 KG**

**\$129** (STREET)

**NADEL.CA**



# ESSENTIAL EXTRAS

## VALUABLE ADD-ONS FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS

By David Giral

Every photographer has discovered some key accessories that help to solve problems or make it easy to achieve a desired effect. Whether through trial and error, from reading about photography or with the guidance of a workshop instructor, these soon become an integral part of our arsenal. Although there are many types of accessories available on the market, some are more valuable than others in a photographer's bag. In this section, we'll briefly discuss various types, from filters to drones to colour-calibration kits. These accessories range from nice-to-have to very useful or even essential.



### B+W CIRCULAR POLARIZER MRC

Made of high-quality Schott glass and a rugged brass filter ring, this circular polarizer helps to eliminate reflections and glare from many surfaces to reduce the effects of haze and to enrich colours. The Multi-Resistant Coating (MRC) is both an anti-reflection coating and a protective surface, increasing light transmission by reducing reflections, scattered light and ghosting but also protecting the glass so it stays cleaner for longer.

\$350 FOR 77-MM FILTER (STREET)

REDRAVENPHOTO.COM



### COKIN PURE HARMONIE VARIABLE ND

Allowing greater control over exposure, this filter's neutral-density effect can be varied from minimal to very dark (1 to 8 stops) providing maximum versatility when using long shutter speeds. It's made with an aluminum filter ring in a thin design to reduce vignetting; the glass is protected by scratch/oil/water-resistant Everclear 5 multi-layer coating to minimize flare.

\$175 FOR 77-MM (STREET)

WEBBSIGHT.CA



### FORMATT-HITECH FIRECREST 4.8 IRND

To be available soon, in a circular and a square format, the Firecrest series—of Schott Superwhite glass with a 15-layer scratch-resistant anti-reflective coating—includes this unique model. It provides a 16-stop reduction in exposure for situations where you must use an extremely long exposure when using a wide aperture. Nearly flat attenuation of visible, UV and infrared light prevents colour casts.

PRICE TBA

WEBBSIGHT.CA



### HELIOPAN SH PMC HAZE UV

This general protective filter absorbs ultraviolet light and reduces bluish cast of daylight without adding any colour or extra contrast and it protects the lens' sensitive front element. It's made of high-quality Schott glass with 16 coatings, 8 per side, for significant reflection reduction (below 0.2 %) as well as dust and moisture repellence for easier cleaning. The filter ring is made of black brass.

\$159 FOR 77-MM FILTER (STREET)

NADEL.CA



### HOYA PRO-1D NDX16

This series provides digital multi-coated ND filters of various darkness levels, including this dark 4-stop model that allows for a much longer shutter speed to be used in bright light for creative and dramatic effects. The slim filter frame is made from a black matte aluminum satin finish almite to reduce reflections; the black-rimmed glass also reduces the chance of light reflecting off the edge. It ships in a UV protected plastic case for protection.

\$73 FOR 62-MM FILTER (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA



## SIGMA WR CIRCULAR POLARIZER

The new WR series filters repel water drops and provide resistance to oil from fingerprints, microscopic dust and smudges. Like any polarizer, the WR model can remove reflection from water, windows and painted metal, while increasing contrast in landscape photography and darkening blue skies. By incorporating a thinner frame, this filter should avoid vignetting even with ultra wide-angle lenses.

PRICE TBA

SIGMACANADA.CA



## DATACOLOR SPYDER 4

The very popular Spyder4 series is available in several kits including the premium-grade Elite, with unlimited gamma choices, unlimited colour temperatures and a great variety of colour targets, employing the fourth-generation colorimeter device. It can handle multiple monitors and digital projectors. The less expensive Express works well too; it's strictly for monitors.

\$130 TO \$600 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA



## X-RITE COLORMUNKI DISPLAY

This kit offers convenient calibration of a monitor or digital projector with a colorimeter device and easy-to-use software. The on-screen help guides and videos offer plenty of useful guidance. You don't need to understand colour science, although there is an advanced mode too, for more experienced users, with additional pre-defined options for even greater control.

\$250 (STREET)

WEBBSIGHT.CA



## DJI PHANTOM II VISION+

If you're looking to capture the world with a unique perspective, consider this quadcopter with 25-minute flight time and equipped with a camera that can shoot Full HD video and take 14-MP still photos. With a range of 300 meters—camera settings can be controlled with a smartphone via Wi-Fi—it should work well for many types of aerial photography. Its 3-axis gimbal stabilizer should ensure blur-free photos and videos.

\$1350 (STREET)

DJI.COM



## EPSON PERFECTION V800 PHOTO

This high-resolution scanner was designed to provide the ultimate in quality and speed and it's versatile too, suitable for scanning prints (up to 4800 dpi) as well as positive and negative films (up to 6400 dpi): 35-mm strip or slide, medium format and 4 x 5". The dual-lens system delivers high optical resolution with automatic selection of the appropriate lens for the type of original. The high optical density allows for reproduction of a very wide range of tones.

\$740 (STREET)

EPSON.CA



## WACOM INTUOS PEN & TOUCH MEDIUM TABLET

Ideal for sketching, drawing and editing photos, this 21.6 x 13.5 cm USB tablet with 2540 lpi resolution is useful for photo retouching using the pressure-sensitive surface with 1024 levels of pressure. To eliminate cord connecting the pen to the tablet, get the optional Wacom Wireless Accessory Kit (\$55). Full versions of Autodesk Sketchbook Express and ArtRage 3 Studio software are included.

\$200 (STREET)

WACOM.COM





## LENSPEN DSLR PRO KIT

Whether you want to clean lenses, filters or your camera's viewfinder, this cleaning kit is one of the best available. The kit includes three devices (FilterKlear, LensPen and MicroPro) each with a brush on one end to remove dust and a carbon-based cleaning tip at the other end to remove fingerprint oil. It also includes a microfibre carrying pouch which doubles as a cleaning cloth.

\$30 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



## GIOTTOS AA1900 ROCKET AIR BLASTER LARGE

This blaster is a safe, effective way to blow clean, dust-free air to clean lenses, cameras, filters and sensors. (If cleaning the sensor, hold the camera so the dust will fall to the ground.) A one-way valve on the bottom brings in clean air and does not re-distribute the dust. This solution is preferable to the "canned air" since there's no liquid propellant that could inadvertently be sprayed onto your lens or sensor.

\$25 (STREET)

JCLSALESGROUP.COM



## MANFROTTO PRO LIGHT E-702 ELEMENTS COVER

With a special coating to make the fabric resistant to water, this cover will fit just about any DSLR with a lens up to 70-200 mm. Slip the cover over your camera and keep shooting in rain or dusty conditions. The intuitive design allows you to easily view and access all camera and lens controls. Many other Elements models, of various sizes and configurations are also available.

\$100 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM



## KENKO EXTENSION TUBE SET

Available for Canon, Nikon and Sony DSLRs, this kit—with 12-mm, 20-mm and 36-mm extension tubes—can enable a lens to focus closer than its normal minimum focusing distance. Ideal for use with a single-focal-length lens, an extension tube is exceptionally useful for macrophotography; the longer the tube the closer the lens will be able to focus.

\$230 TO \$247 DEPENDING ON MOUNT (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA



## EXPODISC 2.0 WHITE BALANCE FILTER

For more accurate white balance or exposures, check out this v.2 accessory with improved mounting design and including two warming filters. Simply place it in front of your lens and capture the incident light (falling onto the subject) while using the camera's light meter or its Custom WB feature; then make settings based on readings you get with this accessory.

\$55 FOR 77 MM OR 82 MM SIZE (STREET)

REDRAVENPHOTO.COM



## SANDISK CONNECT WIRELESS FLASH DRIVE

This very small Wi-Fi-enabled storage device—using an included microSD card from 16-GB to 64-GB capacity—has a range of 150 feet. It's a convenient way to transfer photos and videos from smart devices to a home computer, without the need for cables or an Internet connection. It's compatible with iPad, iPhone, Kindle Fire and Android devices, and can simultaneously connect wirelessly to as many as 8 devices. You can also copy photos and videos onto this drive from a computer via USB connection.

\$55 TO \$120 (STREET)

GENTEC-INTL.COM

## TRIGGERTRAP MOBILE DONGLE 2

Available for most brands of DSLRs, the Triggertrap Mobile Dongle with app allows for triggering the camera with your Apple or Android smart device. With the automated triggering modes you can experiment with time lapse, long-exposure HDR, sound triggering, star trails, and techniques unique to Triggertrap such as DistanceLapse and TimeWarp.

\$50 (STREET)

TRIGGERTRAP.COM

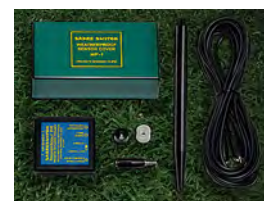


## TRIGGERSCOUT PIR

Designed to trigger a remote camera when it senses moving heat (of an animal or an intruder on your property, for example) in a 20-m range, this device employs a Passive Infrared sensor. Connect it directly to a camera's remote trigger socket or to the MCT-1 control unit to gain the ability to tune the sensitivity of the sensors and also to delay the triggering of the capture device.

\$219 (STREET)

REDRAVENPHOTO.COM



## JOBY GORILLAPOD SLR-ZOOM W/ BALLHEAD

Designed for heavy DSLRs, this GorillaPod kit is a compact and ingenious alternative to a tripod. Its legs are made of flexible ball-socket joints that bend and rotate, allowing the pod to be attached to a solid object like a tree branch. The included ball head holds up to 3 kg and allows you to adjust the camera with ease.

\$80 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA



## JOBY GORILLAPOD ACTION CLAMP & GORILLAPOD ARM

This award-winning device lets you quickly mount your GoPro, Sony Action Cam or other POV camera to flat and round surfaces and then position it at just the right angle and elevation. The kit includes a Flexible 5 ball-and-socket GorillaPod arm that allows for instant and flexible positioning. The sliding locking arm moves quickly to accommodate a surface as thin as a stop sign or a table up to 5 cm in width. The screwing arm locks the sliding locking arm in place.

\$30 (STREET)

DAYMEN.CA



# You are your own production team.

Beyond the camera, there's a vast array of video accessories available to today's videographers and filmmakers. Whether you're producing video for home, online, or broadcast, you'll find everything you need in Vistek's video department: camera rigs, video tripods, sliders, dollies, cranes, and camera stabilizing devices from Defy, Movi, DJI, and Varavon. We carry on-location

audio, including portable recording devices, mixers, shotgun and wireless mics from Sennheiser, Zoom, Atomos, and Blackmagic Design. Plus, LED lighting gear from LEDGo, Kino Flo, Fiilex and Rotolight. And, of course, with the help of Vistek video specialists, the expertise to show you how it all works together.



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## INDEX OF BRANDS

ADOBE .....	65, 66, 67, 69	LOWEPRO .....	84-87
APPLE .....	64	LUMAHAWK .....	77, 80-81
APUTURE .....	80	MAMIYA .....	21
ATOMOS .....	81	MANFROTTO .....	78-79, 81, 86-87, 90-93, 96
B+W .....	94	MARSHALL .....	81
BENRO .....	92, 93	MEFOTO .....	91
BILLINGHAM .....	84	NIKON .....	10-11, 16, 18, 20-28, 30, 38, 51, 55, 59-60, 72
BLACKMAGIC DESIGN .....	81	NISSIN .....	73
BLACKRAPID .....	87	OLYMPUS .....	24, 26, 40, 51, 55, 59-60, 73
CANON .....	8-9, 16-20, 22, 24-25, 27, 34, 50, 54, 58-59, 70, 72	ONA .....	84
COKIN .....	94	ONONE .....	66
CONTOUR .....	62	PANASONIC .....	42, 52, 55-56, 59, 61, 73
COTTON CARRIER .....	88	PEAK DESIGN .....	88
DATACOLOR .....	95	PENTAX .....	12-13, 17-19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27-28, 44, 52, 56, 59, 73
DJI .....	95	PHOTOFLEX .....	77
DXO .....	65	POCKETWIZARD .....	77
ELINCHROM .....	76, 79	PROFOTO .....	76
EPSON .....	71, 95	REDROCK .....	82
EXPODISC .....	96	RICOH .....	62
FORMATT-HITECH .....	69, 94	ROGUE .....	74
FOTOPRO .....	90	ROOTS .....	84
FUJIFILM .....	36, 50, 54, 58, 60	ROTOLIGHT .....	81
GARY FONG .....	74	SAMSUNG .....	46, 52, 61
GIOTTOS .....	96	SANDISK .....	96
GITZO .....	90-91, 93	SAVAGE .....	79
GOPRO .....	62	SCHNEIDER-KREUZNACH .....	30
HASSELBLAD .....	21	SEKONIC .....	79
HELIOPAN .....	94	SENNHEISER .....	82
HONL .....	74	SEVENOAK .....	82
HOYA .....	94	SIGMA .....	19, 23, 25-30, 56, 61, 73, 95
IFOOTAGE .....	82	SIRUI .....	92
ILLUMI .....	78	SLIK .....	92-93
INDURO .....	91	SONY .....	14-15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26-27, 29, 48, 53, 57, 59, 61-62, 67, 73
INTERFIT .....	74	SPIDER .....	88
INVISION .....	81	TENBA .....	86
ION AIR .....	62	THINK TANK .....	86
JOBY .....	78, 88, 97	TOKINA .....	23, 26
KAMERAR .....	82	TRIGGERSCOOT .....	97
KENKO .....	96	VELBON .....	93
LASTOLITE .....	77-79	VOIGTLANDER .....	57
LED GO .....	78	WACOM .....	95
LEICA .....	50, 55	WESTCOTT .....	79
LENSPEN .....	96	X-RITE .....	95
LOWEL .....	77	ZEISS .....	28, 30, 57

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